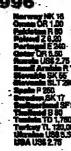
Friday December 6 1996







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Major's disastrous day

'Shabby and mean-minded'

Huge Tory revolt over pensions cut

HN Major faced a huge revolt by Tory back-Tory benchers last night over his handling of plans for £50 million cuts in war pensions, branded "shabby and mean-minded" in a wounding Commons attack by the Labour leader, Tony

Conservatives and Ulster Unionists are threatening to join forces to make the Gov-ernment back down on the plans, disclosed yesterday by the Guardian after they were disguised in the Budget as simplification of procedures.

In the noislest and most bitter exchanges in the Com-mons since the summer, Mr Major came off a poor second to Mr Blair in a series of exchanges on exposure of the real plans and the acknowlers" added to appease ex-

11 Do.

SELAICS KLOUDS" Mr Major said the most con-tentious issue, the proposed block on any future claims for an increase in war pension for hearing loss, affecting 10,000 war veterans a year,

This was echoed in a letter sent to Tory MPs last night by Lord Mackay of Ardbreck-nish, the Social Security Min-ister, in an attempt to stem a rising tide of backbench anger. Although it had been thought that veterans could suffer war-related hearing loss long after leaving the services, he said, "recent medical advice has found that link

does not exist" Earlier, Lord Mackey had said on BBC radio that this advice appeared unanimous and had emerged not from a special government study, but from "a long process of inves-tigation and books being pub-lished and texts in medical

journals and so on".

He maintained: "I asked if there were any medics who have a counter view and I was

have a counter view and I was told there were none."

Several leading medical experts voiced surprise at this assertion. Johathan Hazell, head of the medical research unit at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People, said there was clear evidence to the contrary.

The Prime Minister confirmed the changes, but insisted that he existing pensioner would face cuts. He accused the Guardian of being misleading and

being misleading and

Tory back-benchers were simost unanimous last night in expressing dismay that a Tory government should at-tempt to squeeze war pensioners. Some privately criticised Mr Major's performance in the Commons. One accused



he appeared badly briefed. Although the proposed cuts could be enacted through regulations, officials have advised ministers that the most pensions, would need legisla-tion to be "water light".

David Trimble, said: We are very surrious to ensure that war parisioners are treated learned."

Winston Churchill, Tory MP for Daveyhuma, called for Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who appears to have forced through the cut

Ridiculing ministers' at-tempts to attribute the cut to medical opinion, Mr Chur-chill said: "I have never heard such nonsense in my life. Any grown-up govern-ment takes responsibility for their own actions and doesn't try to go and hide behind pro-fessional advice."

Downing Strest later claimed Mr Churchill's views had changed after being briefed by officials and speak ing to Mr Waldegrave.

ing to Mr Waldegrave.

Mr Blair set out for Mr
Major a series of specific
questions about the Guardian's disclosures and defied
him to answer them. The

Prime Minister declined. Prime Minister declined.

Leading Liberal Democrat
Alan Beith asked Mr Major:
"Since it is only a few weeks
shace we saw disabled war
pensioners determined to
march, limp or be pushed in
wheelchairs past the Cenotaph, surely you haven't forgotten them now?"

Ex-sarvice groups were

Ex-service groups were holding their fire after talking to Lord Mackay at the Central Advisory Committee meeting yesterday. Other groups were outspoken, how-ever. The charity Help the Aged said the cuts showed "total disregard and disre-spect" for war veterans.



Lest they forget . . . Help the Aged said the proposed war pension cuts showed "total disregard and disrespect" for veterans

abandoning widows' rent allowance for new cases...not issuing reminders to return claim forms . . . the instruction 'do not direct appellant to Royal British

the changes Blair: You say

are just simplification.

Explain . . .

Legion as their representative.' Is that correct, or not?

Major: You have completely misunderstood what's happened. You have got it wrong and I hope you won't pursue it.

Blair: If you can't answer those specific points you will stand condemned out of your own mouth . . . They (ministers) know they are doing something shabby and mean-minded. If you can't be trusted with British war pensioners, then why should you be trusted at all?

Major: As is typical, you quote out of context, wrongly, and draw the wrong conclusions as a result.

Clarke scuppers euro plot

Splits on single currency widen

ABINET unity over
Europe was again in
shreds last night
after the Chancellor,
Kenneth Clarke, virtually accused the Conservative Party chairman, Brian Ma-whinney, of organising a plot to bounce John Major into reneging on their compromise over the European

Uproar at last night's weekly meeting of the back-bench 1922 Committee saw Tory rightwingers asking,

"Who's in charge of the Gov-ernment — Clarke or Major?" while loyalists desperately tried to get their colleagues to stop rocking the boat. A week before the EU's Dublin summit, the timing is grim. Publication of draft EU treaty provisions — first reported in the Guardian governing sensitive issues

Barely 48 hours after Mr Major thought he had pushed the Tory Euro-genie back into its bottle, the Chancellor was forced to issue a statement denying that he had threatened to resign if the party's elec-tion manifesto rules out a single currency in the 1997-

Conservative HQ later joined Mr Clarke in a comprenensive, if unconvincing, denial of media "mischief-making". But the Chancellor initially falled to disown reported remarks to friends at Westminster that he had accused Dr Mawhinney's staff of briefing against him. He is reputed to have told

2002 parliament.

economic policy will raise Dr Mawhiney: "Tell your kids rightwing pressure in next to get their scooters off my week's two-day Commons lawn," a dismissive invocation of Harold Wilson's "tanks-off-my-lawn" warning to a union leader in the 1960s. Without directly accusing Mr Major of being respon-sible for a leak to Monday's Daily Telegraph, the Chancel-lor was reported by the BBC as saying "it was a boomer-ang laden with high explosives which has blown up in the Prime Minister's face,

> aphor that also went undenied.

With Labour gleefully stirring the row, few Tory MPs doubted that Mr Major's authority has been weakened. One ex-minister called it "his turn to page 2, column 8

Five of the worst

damaging him badly" — a convincingly Clarke-like met-

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Santa's

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Nor Sto 1906: Made Hist second-tions record to a Test landage, 48 il and against littles authors Opć 30 1990: Last strukkats Hille arching civiy Simo Auss spalast Australia

Sap 19 salah: English kuntata loat to Philippidippia by 108 cars.

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World News



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Canon

Skipper has screw loose as wheels come off England cricketers' wagon yet again

David Hopps in Harare AFTER England's cricket team had contrived to lose to Mashonaland yes-terday, a rumour that Michael Atherton might have a screw loose came as no surprise. Anyone pre-pared to captain a side so skilled at self-humiliation is bound to have his sanity brought into question.

ton's head but in his back, the result of an operation earlier in his career that has left him in persistent discomfort. While he underwent an K-ray in a Har-are hospital, at least he was spared some of the more gruesome aspects of Eng-land's eight-wicket defeat. Atherton's repeated insistence that he was fine owed

It turned out that the sorew was not in Athermake excuses and nothing to logic. He has been in considerable pain, a virus hav-ing reduced the effective-ness of the painkillers he takes regularly. No one could carry England's bat-ting for so long without buckling under the strain. Mashonaland, who won England's opening four-day match of the tour with a day to spare, fielded five of Zim-

babwe's nine full-time pro-fessionals and received the princely sum of 2\$150 (about £9), plus as many bottles of Castle lager as they could drink, for inflicting England's latest embar-rassment. Zimbabwe plan to extend the trend in a two-Test series this month. Among England's tormenters with the ball was

had been thrilled just to bowl at England in the nets. Last Sunday, England collapsed to defeat against a President's XI after running foul of an old adver-sary — Eddo Brandes, a slimmed-down chicken fermer who has not played birds have flu. Atherton's flock looks equally sickly. the rookie Sussex fast bowler James Kirtley, who

Comment and Letters 8 Friday Review Quick Cross

Sketch

O level playing field trips up PM



Simon Hoggart

OHN MAJOR was thoroughly skewered yes-terday, turning gently by the fire like a salmonella-infested doner kebab. His Torquemada was Tony Blair, who was using the article in yes-terday's Guardian which exposed the Government's elab-orate cover-up over war

(Will Mr Blair's aides, the Praetorians of the New Bambocracy, be grateful for this paper's help? Don't be silly.) It was an exciting day. Just after Messrs Major and Blair

walked in, Mr David Evans (C Welwyn), was in the middle of a rant about tagging criminals. "Tha' shambles ovah they-ah," he shouted, in what was believed to be a reference to the Labour Party, "'ave v'o'ed aginst every pice of le-gislition to pu' crimnils be'ind bars. Can you tell us whevver tagging works in Barbados and on safari, because that's 'em!" I want to tag Mr Evans. A bleep would warn you whenever that voice got within half a mile.

The level of sophisticated argument soon fell. Alan Beith (Lib Dem, Berwick) was the first to ask about the war pensions. The Prime Minister had been there when ex-service-men had marched, limped and been pushed in wheelchairs past the Cenotaph.
"Has he forgotten them al-

ready?" he demanded, his voice quavering with un-

Mr Major said he had been misled by the Guardian: noone would lose money as a result of the changes.

Then a curious incident occurred. You may recall that two psychologists have of-fered the Labour Party a psychological profile of the Prime Minister, the better to allow them to trip him up. They point out that he is deeply sen-sitive about his academic

Garth Cartwright

HEN Snoop Doggy Dogg strolled on to Wembley's stage to a

collective roar he must have felt like Evander Holyfield

after taking Mike Tyson's title. In 1994, when his convic-tion for crack dealing and a

coming murder trial made him a contemporary folk devil, a tabloid campaign de-

manded the deportation of the

visiting Snoop. Now cleared of the murder

charge and with his new album, Tha Doggfather, sit-ting at No. 1 in Billboard's US

album chart, Snoop played the champ and invited everyone

jewellery, Snoop models pimp fashions straight out of Starsky and Hutch, As a resi-

dent of Los Angeles his take on the world is undeniably cine-matic and his songs are scato-

ogical street operas. Swagger fluidly, his vocal mannerisms

and low comedy masking how

nasty his rhymes are. Snoop's world view is one of sex.

money, drugs and violence. His opinion of women is vile, but the audience joined in his

chants and whooped when he launched into his anthems. Snoop is undeniably charis

matic, a rhyming Mephisto, and his appeal, both sery and sleazy, had female fans screaming to join him on the

stage. Launching into Murder

was the Case, with its eerle

effects, Snoop reflectively

in the arena to a gangsta with his processed hair, long fingernails and gold

Review

So when Sir Rhodes Boyson asked a question about exami-nation standards, what more natural than that Mr Tony Banks — one of the Rude Boys on the Labour back benches —

should shout out: "Show us your O levels, John!" Mr Blair asked an aggressive question about the pen-sions. But inside the Prime Minister something had snapped; a bolt had sheared off and was rattling danger-ously around the engine. "He is wrong! He is just

plain wrong!" he shouted. "I will try to talk the Labour leader through it gently, so that he understands . . . if he relies on the Guardian for his information, no wonder he is so often wrong!"

Mr Blair rose again, this
time with a list of secretive

ways which can be used to cut payments—not issuing reminders, keeping the Royal British Legion out of it, and so forth. Labour MPs cheered dementedly.

By this time the Prime Minister had lost it altogether. "He has completely misunderstood what has happened, as usual he has misunderstood it, and he has misunderstood what has happened . . . " he burbled, shrilly.

Mr Blair called him "shabby and mean-minded", following the coup de grace with a shot in the head savage and, in the end, unnecessary. Then Tommy McAvoy

(Glasgow Ruthergien) reminded Mr Major that his own Chancellor was gloating about his triumph on the single currency. Ken Clarke had told a BBC journalist that the Prime Minister's attempt to change policy had been "a boomerang laden with high explosives which has blow up in Mr Major's face".

Moments later the Prime Minister marched grimly out. In the space of 15 minutes he had appeared condescending misinformed, an object of ridi-cule to his most senior minis-ter and, worst of all, a skinflint trying to pick the pockets of our ex-servicemen.

And all, perhaps, because Tony Banks asked about his O Live Briefs, by Steve Bell and

transfixed the audience. Then it was back to the party, pro-

pulsive bass patterns and hard hip-hop beats echoing round

the arena. Snoop and his Dogg

Pound entourage treated it all like a street party. He received

an ovation for his tribute to

slain rapper and label mate. Tupac Shakur, then intro-

duced his fellow G-funk star,

If Spoop was all chilled cool, Sisters With Voices tried to

raise the roof and inject spirit into the soulless arena. This

New York vocal duo take the

classic girl-group format, in-

beats into it and sing. And can they sing, especially when the leading vocalist, Coko, wailed with beautiful weariness: "Is

it just my body or does it include my heart?" Blackstreet may not mean much here but in the US they

became national heroes when their single Hot Diggity ended the 13-week reign of Los Del

Rio's Macarena as the nation's No. 1 pop song. The band

Live, Blackstreet are a raucous blend of harmonising and pure hip-hop thump. Riley

and his three groupmates

sweat, shimmy and encourage as much audience participa-tion as possible. Blackstreet

are old-style R'n'B rapped in Calvin Kleins, and with their energy, humour and vocal

ability they made the Soul Jam not only the biggest but the best African-American

event to happen in London in

This review appeared in

later editions yesterday.

Warren G.

Simon Hoggart, is now avail-able in bookshops (Methuen

Doggfather part

two: the return

Teachers accuse Shephard of trying to turn back clock with new guidelines favouring the three Rs

Tougher exams ordered

Donald MacLeod

ILLIAN Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, yesterday ordered measures to make A level and GCSE exminations more traditional which found no evidence of falling standards over the nast 20 years.

Her attempt to end the annual argument about whether exams are getting easier was frustrated by a lack of answer papers going back to 1975 on which to base firm conclusions. But the report by the Office for Stan-dards in Education and the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority re-

inforced calls for more em-phasis on basic writing and numeracy skills. The form and content of exams had changed over time but the de mands on students appeared broadly the same.

"I am determined to ensure that standards are not allowed to slip in the future because the efforts of our young people must not be wasted. One of the most worrying features of this report is that it provides further evi-dence of inconsistencies between syllabuses and between examining boards," said Mrs Shephard yesterday. Teachers accused the gov-

ernment of trying to turn the clock back and examination boards insisted today's students were required to deal with more sophisticated anal-

☐ Fewer A level and GCSE syllabuses to choose from.

🗇 Merge exam boards — but not a single national board

☐ More pre-1900 literature in A level English. Less use of calculators and books in exams.

□ National archive of exam scripts.

☐ More emphasis on spelling and grammar at GCSE.

☐ Separate English language GCSE from 1998.

New guidance from the au-thority will further tighten nation boards in England. In-

compared with past exams | English GCSE papers is ex-geared to feats of memory. | Pected to be followed by a sep-arate English language GCSE. At A level, students will be required to read more classi cal texts than the present minimum of two pre-1900

culators is to be restricted and formula sheets reviewed. Mrs Shephard said she expected the number of syllahuses to be cut significantly — at present there are nearly 250 A level and AS syllabuses in English, maths and science
— and stepped up pressure on the boards to merge with each other and the vocational awarding bodies. But she said she was not in favour of nationalising all exams under a

single board. A national ar-chive of exam scripts is to be set up to help track standards. David Blunkett, the Labour Party's education spokesman, said yesterday he was now prepared to consider a national board for England, which is already Liberal

Democrat policy. Sir Ron Dearing, chairman

placed on students were broadly the same over the past 20 years. "But there is need to seek strengthening on certain of the key elements of

English and maths." Chris Woodhead, the head of Ofsted who has stressed the danger of slipping standards. conceded yesterday there was no proof that standards had

John Dunford, former president of the Secondary Heads' Association and head of Johnston School in Durham, appealed to Mrs Shephard not to turn the clock back 20 years. "Let us make sure exams reflect the curriculum of the modern day and not some pretent curriculum of 20 years

Chancellor

scuppers

Tory plot

on Europe

worst week since Redwood's

leadership challenge". Another said: "He looks like a

boxer on the ropes."
On Channel 4 News, the Eurosceptic MF Teresa Gorman said: "It looks as if Ken Clarke and Michael Heseltine

stitched John Major up on Tuesday"—a reference to the trio's public statements re-affirming last April's compro-

mise, whereby a Tory govern-ment would keep its options open, at least in theory, on whether to join the euro be-

Not all sceptics agree

Whether Monday's clumsy at-

tempt to reopen the compro-mise debate was launched in

the Telegraph without the Prime Minister's knowledge — some MPs said it stemmed from a lunch between Mr

Major and the newspaper's

editor, Charles Moore - it

has achieved the opposite ef-

fect. Mr Clarke has his "cop-

per-bottomed" agreement to uphold the earlier formula in

Some Tory MPs believe Mr Clarke should resign for shar-

ing with BBC journalists his

irritation over a West End

lunch — the source of yester-

day's "scooter" remarks, according to Labour's Frank

Today's Telegraph/Gallup poll, which gives Labour a

startling post-Budget lead, up 10 points to 37 - 59 per cent

for Labour, 22 Tories and 12

Liberal Democrats - will enhance their resentment. Tony Blair, the Labour

leader, said last night that the

row showed the Government was now "descending into disorganised shambles. They are not only incapable of being led but incapable of

governing the country."

lican to

round in his briefcase

table

All-party shame over gifts

Sleaze mires Ireland's top politicians

David Sharrock treland Correspondent

MAGINE if Marks & Spencer had been discovered paying for the building of an extension to the home of the Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, and was then revealed to have been funding not just the Conservatives, but also Labour and the Liberal Democrats. Now switch islands and stores and find it is all true.

The story began at the weekend when the Irish transport minister, Michael Lowry, resigned in order to clear his name over allega-tions made in a confidential financial report. He had, according to a Price Water-house audit, received £208,000 from Dunnes Stores, Ireland's largest chain, for work to his

Tipperary home.
Then on Wednesday the deputy prime minister, Dick Spring, confirmed that his Irish Labour Party — currently in government — had received about £15,000 from Dunnes to help pay for the 1990 campaign to elect Mary Robinson as president.

Yesterday the prime minis-ter, John Bruton, disclosed that his Fine Gael party — the largest of the three-party co-alition government — had sought cash from Ben Dunne, former head of the stores chain, between 1967 and 1993, and received £180,000 to

reduce the party's debt.
But the glee on the opposi-tion benches of the Dail quickly came to an end when the gossips alleged that a for-mer Fianna Fall minister had

of the alleged beneficiary of these Irish-style shopping vouchers is common currency in the Dail's corridors. No evidence has been pro-duced to substantiate the fin-

ger-pointing.
Three members of Fianna Fail have already admitted to their leader, Bertle Ahern, that they received "small and insignificant" contributions from the Dunne family over the past three general

Earlier this week members of the Irish parliament were warned to avoid using parliamentary privilege to name

It is expected that the Price Waterhouse report into Duones Stores, described as "political dynamite" by senior politicians in Dublin, may be published soon in an attempt to clear the stanch of eleaze. Mr Spring has warned nan of mounting public con-cern about the integrity of the political system.

The report was drafted in preparations for a multi-million-pound court battle be-tween Ben Dunne and his siblings, Frank Dunne, Mrs Hefffamily split led to a power struggle for control of the chain, which was eventually won by Mrs Heffernan. The case was settled out of court in 1994, with Ben Dunne receiving a reported £125 million.

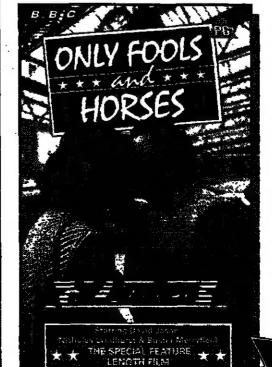
Yesterday the Irish Inde-pendent, the newspaper that broke the story last week, said its source had revealed the gossips alleged that a late of the printed in the Price Walter of the scandal seems received more than £1 million via an account in London. The rumour mill has been at full tilt and the name on a money trail of county councillors the been at full tilt and the name on a money trail of the lish Republic.



Ben Dunne, who went on a Florida hinge that led to the legal battle exposing the cash scandal

there is no conclusive proof," the source told the

The scandal seems set to spread to include the names of hosts of town, city and county councillors through-



the cards for Del Boy? Find out in this feature length

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BBC

leader, Teddy Riley, is a studio prodigy, producing everyone from Bobby Brown to Michael Dunnes Stores, at the centre of reports about cash gifts which are rocking Irish politics

Colourful firm, colourful lives

terpart is nowhere near as colourful, writes David Sharrock.

The chain was established by Ben Dunne in Cork in 1943 after his father dissuaded him from branches, 3,500 employees and a turnover of £320 mil-lion a year. His sons Ben and Frank took over, with their sisters closely involved.

The company is a private trust owned by the family. Chief executive is Margaret Heffernan, one sister, whose salary in 1992 was reported as £1.5 million. reported as £1.5 million. In 1981 Ben Dunne junior was held captive for six the company.

UNNES Stores, with its "St Bernard" label, may be the Marks & Spencer of Ireland, but its British county to proper t payment. He has refused to talk about the ordeal.

Twelve years later, he went off on a golfing holi-day to Florida. Off the fair-

ways, he went on a tycoon-style binge worthy of an American television soap. At the end of an evening in the company of a prosti-tute and a quantity of co-

caine, Mr Dunne clambered on to the ledge of his 17th-floor botel room and threatened to jump. The police talked him down and he was fined \$5,000, or-dered to be treated for drug addiction and barred from the US for life. The incident brought to a

head a simmering family

Margaret Heffernan, whose salary in 1992 was £1.5m

Girls behaving badly are back as C4 heads for 24-hour broadcasts States. When he died in

Media Correspondent

CHANNEL 4 yesterday sig-nailed its determination to continue courting controversy by announcing the return of The Girlie Show.

The first series was condemned by MPs and reprimanded by the Broadcasting

Standards Council, but Chan-

nel 4 said it would return "tighter and sharper, but still determined to behave very badly indeed". Sara Cox and Rachel Williams will be joined by new

presenter Sarah Cawood. Three million people watched the first series billed as the female answer to "new laddism" — with men aged between 25 and 50 proving the keenest viewers.

The Price Waterhouse report at the centre of the present row was commissioned as part of Mrs Heff-ernan's case. The matter was settled out of court in 1994. Mr Dunne now has his own retail company.

Breaking up is hard to do . . . Percy Adams sits proudly in front of his Northlew Silver Band colleagues before the split. Mr Adams objected to 'new-fangled pop stuff' by artists such as The Beatles and Abba

Last march of Colonel Bogey

Percy Adams has paid the price as sounds from the 1960s oust music for the over-60s. Stuart Millar on a coup amid

the cornets

was a staple of Nortblew Silver Band's concert repertoire for more than 60 years. But the north Devon church concert and summer fete circuit will never be the same after a coup by young memmilitary march and the vil-lage band's veteran musical director in the name of ignation letter.

In a classic example of "artistic differences", rebels told Percy Adams, aged 78, he would have to go because his old-(ash-ioned tastes were putting off new recruits and forc-ing the band into stagnation. Mr Adams, a farmer and grandfather, had de-voted his entire life to the band since joining in 1932. He rose through the ranks playing cornet, tenor horn and trombone before tak-1971. Since then he has cho-sen every tune the 20-piece play. I don't remember someone who has served

Brassed off Is All You Need in Long. The Es A: YMCA, Village People

the village hall, the most glittering date in the band's calendar. The youngsters demanded that they be allowed to play dangerously modern music such as The Beatles and Village People, but Mr Adams in-sisted they stick to mili-tary marches and rousing hymns. They responded by offering to draw up his res-

Yesterday, Mr Adams an-nounced he would boycott the concert. "I am upset and disappointed at the way they have done it," he said. "I'm not young and if they waited I could not have gone on for much longer. When they asked me to resign it came as a shock... I think one or two of them wanted my job and that is why they kicked me

He said he preferred "proper" old brass band

all the new-fangled pop stuff they wanted." Mr Adams denied he had been too dogmatic in his musical preferences. "We did play some modern

pieces. We did one called Love Changes Everything or something like that." None of the rebels could be contacted yesterday, but pressed regret at the out-come. "Some members come. wanted to play modern uptempo music and Mr Ad-ams did not, which is understandable for someone of his age, but he was stopping the rest of the band from doing so." He said they had tried to

reach a compromise that would allow the band to play up-to-date pieces while Mr Adams would continue "In the end there seemed to band played.

The dispute came to a for, but there was stuff we very much regret what head at a meeting to plan from The Beatles and a pop has happened." we very much regret what has happened."



Let it be . . . Percy Adams yesterday after being forced out of the band he had served for 62 years

Bookies bet on daily lottery

HARFITES could lose more than \$280 million a year as a result of a daily draw to be launched before Christmas by Britain's biggest bookmakers in a

biggest hookmakers in a direct challenge to the National Lottery.

The televised lottery, to be called Forty Nines, is a joint venture between Coral, William Hill and Ladbrokes, which are introducing the draw on December 16 as a direct response to the Government's continued refusal to ment's continued refusal to allow betting on winning

allow betting on winning National Lottery numbers.
It is expected to start as a daily draw, but industry analysts believe it could be increased to twice a day, depending on public reaction.
A spokeaman for Camelot, the National Lottery operator, said: "We are aware of the more and are considering. the move and are considering

our position."
It is thought to be looking at the possibility of a legal challenge on the grounds that the

new lottery may break the 1967 Gaming Act.
The Irish lottery has lost a fifth of its revenue since the introduction of betting in bookies' shops. Experts feel the UK lottery could suffer a similar drop. This would equate to the loss of £1 billion in revenues and £260 million

in pay-outs to good causes.
In common with the National Lottery, Forty Nines will be based on a machine that spews out six balls num-bered between one and 49. There are no plans to offer a multi-militon-pound jackpot, which would be too costly to hedge against. But the odds it is offering are likely to make it a serious rival to Camelot.

numbers would win a punter £100,000, compared with Lottery. Three correct num-bers would result in a £511

peyout, whereas the Saturday draw pays out \$10.

The game will be shown live on \$15, the satellite television system that relays races to most of the country's 9,300 betting shops.

In addition to William Hill, Ladbrokes and Coral — who between them are naving

between them are paying other leading operators, in-cluding Stanley Racing, are expected to participate, pay-ing £5 a shop to receive the televised osverage.

Vatican talks stall over women

Pope and archbishop agree to rethink road to reunification

John Hooper in Rome

HE Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury an-nounced last night that their two Churches were to rethink their talks on reunification because of the "obstacle to reconciliation caused by the ordination of women". In a rare joint declaration, they said: "In view of

'women's ordination', it may be opportune at this stage in our journey to consult further about how the relationship between the Anglican Communion and the Catholic

remained committed to talks. and the atmosphere surrounding Archbishop Carey's first official visit to the Vatifirst official visit to the Vati-can was one of cordiality, But his steely message to Angli-

the decision with which it ended is bound to be seen as ominous by ecumenically

the archbishop made a series of contadictory remarks about Women's ordination which seemed to reflect the strains of the visit. "It could be that the ordination of women will not be received into the life of the Church.

strength".

minded Anglicans and Roman Catholics.
At a press conference later

Anything can happen in the years to come," he said.
But asked whether that

meant the Synod's agreement on women's ordination could Church is to progress." be reversed, he said no. He Both sides insisted they added that women priests were going from "strength to

The Pope, by contrast, was

cans was that — if only they would think long enough and pray hard enough — they would realise he was right and except his authority.

and accept his authority.

After just 30 minutes of private discussion with Dr Carey, he said: "My particular responsibility as the Succes-sor of Peter for the faith and unity of the Church leads me to invite my brothers and sis-ters of the Anglican Communion to reflect on the motives and reasons of the positions I have expressed in the exercise of my teaching office."

Earlier, his guest had swept into the Vatican in a black limousine, and been ushered into the sumptuous Apostolic Palace which serves as the Pope's residence and office. Their discussions had been

billed as strictly private. But, with an unfortunate turn of phrase, Dr Carey described it want to be"

Sitting alongside Dr Carey in the Vatican library after-

Vatican's disillusion. He said the split with Can-terbury in the 16th century had been "tragic". Since the start of their talks, Anglicans and Roman Catholics had "joined more fervently in prayer for the gift of unity". The dialogue had "high-lighted points of convergence and even agreement not thought possible before".

But he went on to imply that, because of the difficul-ties over women's ordination, reunification was no longer a

realistic alm.

Dr Carey and his wife were unexpectedly asked back for lunch, along with the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Njongonkulu Ndun-gane. But there was no invitation to the celebrations the Vatican is planning in Rome

John Vassall, once Britain's most notorious spy, dies a secret death

Richard Norton-Taylor

HIRTY years ago, his name was all over the front pages. Last month he dropped dead on a London bus and no one noticed. It emerged yesterday that John Vassall, the former Admiralty clerk at the centre of a spy scandal that rocked the Macmillan government and severely embarrassed the security services, had been privately buried.

Vassall, a homosexual blackmailed by the KGB, Phillips, proterted by obscu-rity. He was usually de-scribed as a lonely figure. Yet "pretty good tribute".

more than 100 people attended his Latin High Mass funeral service at the Bromp-ton Oratory in Knightsbridge, west London on Tuesday. That, too, emerged only yesteriay.

The congregation, which heart a passage from The Bal-lad of Reading Jail by Oscar Wilde, included friends from the British Records Associa-tion, where he worked as an archivist. Also there was Lord Longford, who met Vas-sall in prison after he was sentenced to 18 years in 1962. "I saw him quite often. I was impressed by him." Lord

Vassall died of a heart attack at the age of 72 outside Baker Street Underground station on November 18, almost entirely forgotten by a public which had vilified him, despite the underlying questions about why someone who had scarcely hidden his homosexuality, and had in-dulged in a lifestyle well beyond his official means, had

not been suspected sooner. His arrest and trial provoked a furore at a time when political scandal was more about sex and spies than sex and sleaze. The Vassall case was a kind of prelude to the Profumo affair.



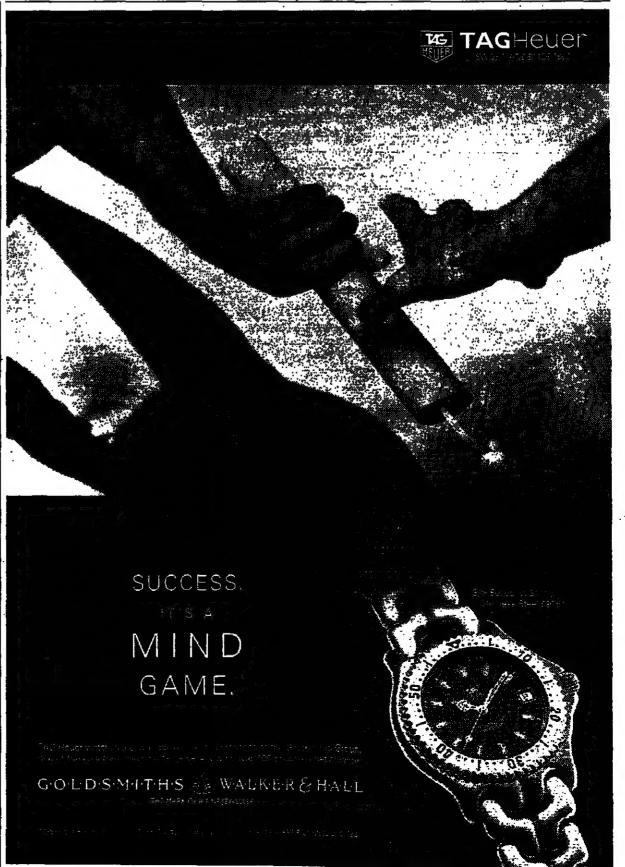
John Vassall: vilified, then

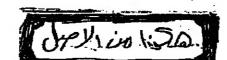


Ironically, Pynchon's refusal to assume a public persona has only fuelled an image he may have never intended. "It works for him that he is a recluse," says Chris Calhoun. "I'm sure this is a coincidence, but it's very big business." Nancy Jo Sales on the world's most notorious literary recluse

Obituary, page 10

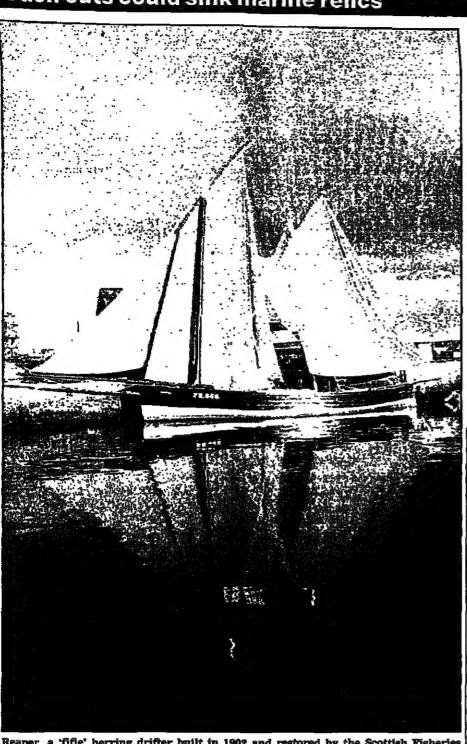
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Smoke

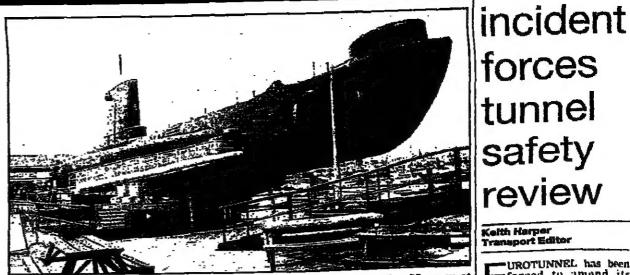
Cash cuts could sink marine relics



aper, a 'fifie' herring drifter built in 1902 and restored by the Scottish Fisheries

Maev Kennedy

looks at proposal for a national register of pre-1945 vessels



Alliance, an A-class second world war boat at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum at Gosport, Hampshire, will be among the youngest vessels to be classed as historic

Listing of historic ships may see many left high and dry

being conserved around Britain, from Elizabethan galleons to 20th century gunships, are likely to face stormy times after the announcement yes-terday of an attempt to compile a national ships register.
The attempt may scuttle
many historic ships, cutting
them off from any hope of offi-

torians and archaeologists have worried about the piecemeal nature of ship conserve tion. With no central co-ordi-

sums are poured into projects which could never become commercially viable. The register is intended to lead to a national ships collection which would determine which vessels must be kept and how. Where dozens or

types are being conserved and none of others, and huge

ANY of the 3,000 or more historic ships Wrecks and restoration

☐ THE Mary Rose, Henry VIII's favourite warship, was built about 1520, and sank off Portsmouth in 1545. It was raised in 1982 and is undergoing a £1.25 million restoration.

□ HMS Warrior, the first

steam-powered armour-plated warship, was built in 1860 and restored at Hartlepool. The initial restoration cost was £8 million. She is now estimated to need repairs of £1.2 million.

type exist, only the best would be listed. The rest would have no hope of government funding and little hope of lottery cash.

The cost of conserving them. is enormous: one formula sug-gested is 10 per cent of the original conservation cost for maintenance each year, which for HMS Warrior

☐ HMS Trincomalee, the oldest floating warship in Britain, a frigate built of teak at Bombay in 1817. Under restoration at Hartlepool since 1990, it got a lottery grant this year of 2975,000 towards the £3.8 million cost.

☐ Cutty Sark, the most famous of the tea clippers built on the Clyde in 1869, has been a tourist attraction since

Recently the historic ships collection at Exeter docks went into receivership, bit by lease problems, maintenance costs and a decline in visitors. If a rescue attempt falls the collection will be split up and sold abroad.

The National Historic Ships Committee has studied the problem for the past 18

National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, south London.

The committee's secretary. Colin Allen, a former captain of HMS Warrior, said: "There may come a time when somebody has to say 'If you want to keep this ship going, you're on your own with whatever local authority or private money you can find."

He said the basis for long-term preservation had to be historic or technological in-terest, not just sentiment or local interest. The committee will advise the Heritage Lottery Fund on

hundreds of applications coming in from ship restoration The register will include all known vessels over 40ft and 40 tons built in Britain before

waters. Almost 900, mostly in public ownership, have been classified, but there are believed to be thousands more

forces tunnel safety review Keith Harper Transport Editor

UROTUNNEL has been forced to amend its emergency procedures after an incident in which a 15-mile stretch of the Channel Tunnel's service tunnel filled with dense exhaust smoke when the engine of a service vehicle developed a fault.

Train services were not suspended while the smoke was cleared, even though the service tunnel is intended as a safe haven for passengers during an emergency, accord-ing to a report by the Health and Safety Executive. The report says it took two hours before the ventilation system

unear

QM cleft

was adjusted to clear it. The HSE's annual report on railway safety says: "While the smoke was not toxic, all trains should have been suspended because of the loss of the safe haven. Since their rules did not cover this eventurdity. Eurotunnel continued to operate a normal night

The incident took place while maintenance was being carried out. The vehicle developed a fault in its exhaust system which resulted in dense smoke being emitted into the service tunnel from mid-point to the UK portal a distance of 25 kilometres"

Vic Coleman, deputy chief inspecting officer of railways and a member of the Channel Tunnel safety authority, described it as "a very low level incident" but said lessons had

The inspectorate's report draws attention to a 41 per cent increase in vandalism on railways generally. Deaths fell from 43 to 29, their lowest ever. But the total number of accidents increased by 80 from 909 to 989. This was due to a rise in the

number of trains running into obstructions and in the number of fires on passenger trains, mostly caused by

The Transport Secretary Sir George Young, said that the figures proved the effec-

Copyright detectives prepare to move in on Whitehall

Sarah Boseley

ployed by the Copyright Licensing Agency may be about to infiltrate a govrament department to investigate suspicions that illegal and publishers, all schools tolerance of illegal and many other establishments now have legitimate cy's chief executive. ernment department to inves-tigate suspicions that illegal

multi-national companies, to Yesterday, however, the ment, local council, public stantial out-of-court settle in private detectives whose had questions asked in the national

shares out the revenue from

licence from the agency.

through ignorance or arro-gance are breaking the law.
'I am outting the Govern-Thanks to the determina-tion of the agency, which ment and Opposition alike on notice that the CLA has zero tolerance of illegal copying," said Colin Hadley, the agen-

from the CLA and its investigators.
"Those who cut corners or

and may be subject to finan- consultancies. cial penalties in the glare of publicity.

Pharmaceuticals after legal

Recently it collected £50,000

revelations, they may take over the company's cleaning contract, or even pose as a rival outfit, and interview believe themselves above the from Dar Al-Handasah, one of rival outfit, and interview law can expect to be exposed the UK's largest engineering some of the staff as if to poach

If the agency is not satisfied that an organisation is on the straight and narrow, it sends aroused suspicion. The CLA around £7,000 for a multi-

them for better-paid jobs.

ask employees to photocopy | CLA announced a crackdown even a single page of a book on companies — and govern-or periodical unless it has a ment departments — which | body or quango not holding a ments with such institutions | mission is to go through the | House of Commons about the as Morgan Stanley, Manches rubbish bins, looking for photocopy | CLA announced a crackdown on companies — and govern-or periodical unless it has a ment department or periodical unless it has a ment with copyright law. The Welsh Office answered: "Nothing".
The CLA, set up in 1982,

now represents 50,000 authors and 1,500 publishers. The cost

safest form of land transport.

Anti-stalking law could be used against racists and bullies at work

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE Government's antistalking law, published yesterday, is so widely drawn it will also be used against nuisance neighbours, workplace bullies and racists, the Home Secretary, Michael

yesterday.
Ministers say the Protection from Harassment Bill will lead to 200 new cases a year, with the tough penalty of up to five years in prison. "This bill tackles the kind of harassment which makes life a misery for many people who feel powerless to stop it," he

The legislation will have its House of Commons second reading on December 16. It will tackle sex stalkers, and lower-level incidents where somebody causes anxiety by repeatedly sending unwanted

flowers or gifts. Mr Howard insisted the measure would not stop people from going about their lawful business with the "le-gitimate work of the police, the security service, journal-ists and others recognised

and protected". But last night the low-level "two strikes" trigger for pros-ecutions for the new crimes attracted criticism from civil liberties campaigners who also said it was so widely drawn It could be used against journalists and

The bill creates two new criminal offences in England and Wales. The "high-level" offence which involves a threat of violence is intended to catch the most serious cases of harassment "where on more than one occasion the conduct is so threatening that victims fear for their

The lower-level offence is directed at behaviour which is non-violent but nevertheless can have devastating effects. The victim will have to prove that the incidents have

nappened at least twice. The bill departs from previous legislation in that the victim does not have to prove the

Fears of more loyalist violence follow arson attacks on school

David Sharrock

EARS of serious violence during loyalist demonstrations at a Catholic church in Ballymena this weekend grew on a Catholic school and

Nobody was hurt, but police said one family — a couple and their two children aged six and four — narrowly escaped injury when a petrol bomb exploded in their living room while they were asleep in the town's Ballykeel area. A device falled to ignite at a second Catholic family's

home nearby.

The school, St Mary's pri-mary, near Our Lady's Catholic Church, which has been at the centre of violent loyalist Pickets, was extensively damaged and had to be closed. The picket of the church has been going on every Sat-

urday for three months, and began after nationalists in the Antrim village of Dunloy pre-vented Orangemen from pa-rading to a church service at the end of the marching Last weekend the protest

intensified when a woman was dragged from her car as she left the church and an other narrowly escaped injury when a brick was thrown through her windscreen. Petrol bombs were thrown, a bus was set alight and several police officers were injured. The Belfast Newsletter yes

terday gave details of plans by shadowy loyalist elements to escalate the protest. It quoted from statements using recognised codewords warning that there will be no standing back in the "anti-Popish protest at Harryville".

Loyalist statements also said plans were in hand to exother chapels in north This week the local MP, Democratic Unionist leader Ian Paisley, broke his silence on the affair to condemn the

violence. Since then flysheets have been distributed accus-

ing him of aligning himself with "the Anglo-Irish RUC

A number of his Free Presbyterian churches have also been daubed with graffiti son", a reference to Mr Paisley's hero, the anti-Home Rule Irish Unionist and barrister Sir Edward Carson

"We intend," said a state-ment, "that the protests at the chapel will continue until after an Orange parade and church service has been held at Dunloy and until there are ar Dinnoy and that there are public assurances from the Roman Catholic Church and the SDLP that Orange parades and loyalist band parades will be permitted to take place unhindered in all towns and villages in which the parades are tradition. such parades are traditionally held throughout the North Antrim constituency The leaders of the four

main churches have issued a joint statement condemning the protests. The Ulster Unionist mayor of Ballymena, James Currie, promised to be at the church tomorrow to offer his support to mass-goers. David Ervine of the Progressive Unionist Party, which is linked to the Ulster Volunteer Force, said he would also be there.

Mr Currie said yesterday: "The vast majority are good, decent, hard-working people. It's a very respectable area and they want nothing to do with this. It should be very clear to everyone that many Protestants are being intimidated by these people."

Mr Currie said he intended

to be at Our Lady's chapel on Saturday evening in spite of threats to him and verbal abuse of his family. Mr Paisley's son, Ian, con-firmed he had been warned by police that the Ulster Vol-

unteer Force had put him on

a death list because of his opposition to the protest.
The political wing of the Irish National Liberation Army warned yesterday of an escalation in the conflict. A spokesman for the Irish Republican Socialist Party said condemnation was no longer enough. "There remains the risk of very real repercussions for the entire community."





Statement says protests will continue until Orange parade allowed Generals call for an end to nuclear weapons

David Fairhall Defence Correspondent

IELD MARSHAL Lord Carver, a "Desert Rat" who rose to Britain's chief of defence staff, yester-day joined more than 60 generals and admirals worldwide calling for the elimination of

nuclear weapons.
Those declaring that nuclear weapons represent "a clear and present danger to the very existence of human-ity" include two former Nato supreme commanders, John Galvin and Bernard Rogers, Russia's General Alexander Lebed, President Yeltsin's exsecurity adviser, and the US air force general Charles Horner, who ran the air cam-paign in the Gulf war. These are fighting men who evident-ly share Field Marshal

than not having one.

Their statement, published in London, proposes three immediate moves to take advan-tage of the ending of the cold war: further large cuts in nuclear stockpiles, taking those that remain gradually off alert, and declaring that the world must work towards

their total elimination. "The exact circumstances and conditions that will make it possible to proceed finally to abolition cannot now be foreseen or prescribed," the statement continues. But in the generals' view one obvi-ous prerequisite is a world-wide system of inspection to ensure that rogue states or terrorists cannot acquire ism and a new nuclear a such weapons. With this race render it necessary."

Carver's belief that having a tional intervention" to de-nuclear deterrent is riskier stroy illicit weapons.

The signatories say the end of the cold war favours disarmament. The UN's approval of a comprehensive test ban treaty earlier this year is one of several steps towards a sia and the US keeping war-heads in storage after destroying their means of delivery creates a "reversible nuclear potential". The nuclear threats most commonly postu-lated to justify maintaining nuclear armaments "are not susceptible to deterrence or

are simply not credible". The generals conclude: "The end of the cold war makes it possible. The dan-gers of proliferation, terror-

would go "an agreed procedure for forcible interna-

Sheep dip adviser quits over government 'gag'

Paul Brown Environment Correspon

GOVERNMENT adviser on brain and other nerve damage caused by sheep dip has resigned from his post because he has been "gagged" by a new code of conduct which ne says prevents him telling the full truth in court.

Goran A Jamal, a consul-tant at the Institute of Neurological Sciences in Glasgow, had been preparing to be had been preparing to be called as an expert witness in cases where alleged victims of organo-phosphate exposure were claiming damages. However, a new code of conduct for the Medical and Scientific Panel of the Ministry of Agri-culture imposed in February effectively prevented him tell-ing the court the full truth of what he knew.

Dr Jamal said yesterday. "I was distressed and alarmed at the content of the code that was imposed upon us. I made tended to prevent giving it clear it was a resignation information that was not alissue for me but they would ready in the public domain.

reassurance to them that he would be there to find out the truth of whether they were entitled to compensation. He was the only independent member of the committee."

The Ministry insists the evidence available to the committee about damage should be kept confidential and Dr Jamal accepted that. He believed, however, that the code prevented him giving other evidence that would have assisted claimants.

Mr Tyler and Michael Meacher, Labour environment spokesman, are to see
Angela Browning, the agriculture minister, next week to demand publication of the code.

Mr Meacher said: "A key
scientist has been funced to scientist has been forced to resign as a result of the minis-

try's gagging attempts."

A ministry spokeswoman said the code was intended to provide guidelines for committee members giving evidence in court. It was in-

was appointed. It was a major reassurance to them that he would be there to find out the bership and serving justice in the world be there to find out the a court of law. In effect, they

were forcing me to be eco-nomical with the truth."

The Ministry of Agriculture instructed sheep farmers over many years to use organo-phosphate sheep dips even though there was evidence

they could be harmful. There is increasing evidence both from Dr Jamal's institute and the United States that low level exposure to sheep dip causes neurologi-

cal damag It was Dr Jamai's pioneer ing work that first proved that low level exposure to organo-phosphates caused

nerve damage. He said it was not until it became known he was pre-pared to give evidence that the code of conduct was imposed. An all-party group of MPs is backing Dr Jamal, its chair-man, Paul Tyler, Liberal Democrat MP for North Corpwall, said: "Dr Jamal gave hope to victims of organophosphate poisoning when he

Brussels proposals include new powers on immigration, asylum and frontiers The European Union's draft treaty — the blueprint for closer integration was released in Brussels yesterday. The document forms not only the basis for next week's Dublin summit, but the text with which British Eurosceptics and Europhiles will do battle in the run-up to the general election. In many key areas, Britain is in a minority of one in objecting to the draft treaty's proposals, leading Eurosceptics to fear that objections will be drowned out by an integrationist majority. The European

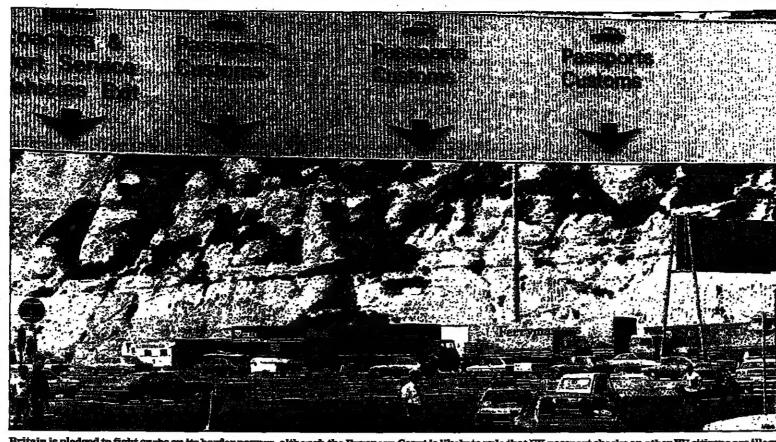
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44 Table



Britain is pledged to fight curbs on its border powers, although the European Court is likely to rule that UK passport checks on other EU citizens are illegal

Draft treaty's main points

The social chapter, which Britain has an optout from, should be integrated into the treaty, extending to all member states the content of an agreement "which at present applies to 14 member states only". □ A new article giving the EU powers over

internal and external border controls, asylum policy, and measures affecting refugees and displaced persons. ☐ Sets 2001 for full opening of internal borders. ☐ Establishes

citizenship of the European Union, but this is intended to "complement and not replace national citizenship."

Identifies fundamental human rights, the freedom of citizens to live and work throughout the | Council of Ministers.

Union, the fight against crime and drugs, and obs as key priorities.

Proposes a permanent upper limit of 700 members of the European Parliament, no matter how much the EU expands. In future there may be fewer MEPs from each country.

Defers any proposal on the future size of the Commission, changes in the votes of each member state or on the key issue of "flexibility" — the right of those EU countries which wish to cooperate more closely to do so without being prevented by the veto of others. Future proposals for joint action in foreign and security policy to be prepared by a Brusselsbased unit under control of a more powerful secretary- general of the

"moment of truth" EU nearing moment of truth on treaty, warns Santer

Howard threatens veto on move to relax Europe passport checks

John Palmer in Brussels and Alan Travis

Commission president, Jacques

Santer, said

yesterday the EU

would soon face its

HE president of the European Commission. Jacques Santer, yesterday spelled out the choice facing the EU—and particularly Britain as its But I do not rule out that most sceptical member — as the union's draft treaty was unveiled before next week's Dublin summit. The EU, he said, would

in its quest for greater politi-

cal unity. Asked whether there was any prospect of the British Conservative govern-ment to agreeing to closer union, Mr Santer replied: "In But I do not rule out that under the Dutch Presidency [starting in June 1997] a mo-ment of truth will arrive.

We will have to answer the question what is the political project for Europe 40 years after the Treaty of Rome?"

holds the current EU Council presidency, "We must decide between Europe as a political project, or it being a vast free trade area. That is when there will be a choice and a moment of truth."
Mr Bruton, who will host

the two day Dublin summit on December 13-14, was more circumspect when he was asked whether he believed John Major could agree to some of the proposals in the Irish EU Presidency draft treaty. These include new

Mr Santer told a press conference in Brussels given jointly frontiers and the fight against with the Irish prime minister, John Bruton, whose country clearly point to the need for more majority voting, greater powers for the European Par-liament and a stronger common foreign, security and defence policy.

The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, greeted the disclosure of the new commission proposals on border con-trols with a robust declaradle, warned that the Govern-ment was overlooking an impending ruling from the European Court in Luxem-bourg that Britain's existing passport checks on other EU

citizens were illegal.
"We have already signed away our right to indepen-dent border controls in the

veto any attempt at Dublin to lift British passport checks on las said herself she was mistrate. However Mr Howard, who lad over her belief that we lost negotiated an opt-out."

Wr Wardle. "Lady Thatcher employing illegal immig of this," he said yesterday. "But our position is clear we lost negotiated an opt-out."

However Mr Howard, who last negotiated an opt-out." as a leading Cabinet Euros- governmental conference to

Although Britain has firmly resisted attempts to reduce passport checks at ports such as Dover on EU cit-izens, Mr Howard has been instrumental in creating a system of internal immigra-tion checks. Letters went out to more than one million Brit-ish companies this week telling them of new penalties for

as a leading Cabinet Euros-ceptic has continually raised the spectre of mass immigration if external UK border checks are dismantied, be-lieves the Government can resist any further moves by other EU states to extend the current seven-strong Schengen agreement for free move-ment by EU citizens. "We cannot stop discussion

maintain our border controls. We believe in defending Briteven if that means being iso lated in Europe." Mr Howard claimed that France had maintained passport checks at its Northern frontier and had reinstated them at all other borders this week after the Paris metro bombing.

Sceptics set to vent spleen

Michael White Political Editor

chance to air differences over the future direction of the European Union in a two-day or not they join the euro-Commons debate next currency. a day before the Dublin

Ministers confirmed the timetable last night as Tory sceptics on Europe responded with alarm to the draft EU treaty revisions produced by the Irish presidency of the Council of Ministers on bor-der controls as well as the powers of the commission and Strasbourg parliament. Some sceptics believe a

firm No is the key to a fifth election win. A senior back-

bencher said: "We must be | not see any prospect" of memlike 1940, we must stand

Colleagues in the Lords ARRING Conserva-tive Euro-factions will get their long-awaited states can, in theory, be taken to the European Court for eco-nomic delinquency, whether They pointed to

> Mackay of Arbrecknish's speech in this week's Lords debate in which he told Lord Tebbit that "all members of the single market should take account of the community as a whole when running their economies "Single markets work bet-

ter with a degree of coordina-tion in certain economic policies, in particular asounds public finance and low inflation." He told Lord Tebbit he "did

ber states being taken to the Court for falling to honour its obligations "unless it were to do something deliberately to destablise the single market

Such circumstances were "so extreme" that no sensible government would do it, the of whom were

In the Commons the Prime Minister yesterday renewed his pledge that a referendum was "linked in any way" with a European single currency.

tary union in the next parliament

time that the Tories had made a "firm commitment" to hold such a poll if the Government backed economic and mone-

66 Wonderful. A phone for a year including some calls.

Birt plea to MPs over Murdoch's digital TV

Andrew Culf Media Corresp

OHN Birt, the BBC's direc-Utor general, yesterday made a last-ditch appeal to MPs to ensure Rupert Mur-doch's control over the gateway to digital television is

fairly regulated. He said Parliament faced a national heritage committee that BSkyB had established

de facto control of the gate-way into the digital world. They have got the battering rams of sport and movies they have got the gateway. satellite, alongside planned

They will control the inter- | subscription channels, inface with the viewer, with our

licence feepayers."
Mr Murdoch plans to launch up to 200 digital satel-lite channels next autumn. Access will be through BSkyB's set-top box and it will have control of the sub-scription management

The BBC, which plans to crucial decision which could offer its services via digital stape the fate of British television for the next 10 years.

Mr Birt told the Commons may be unable to negotiate satisfactory terms with

BSkyB.

It wants to broadcast its free-to-air services — BBC1 and BBC2 in widescreen and 24-hour TV news — on digital

cluding Catch-Up TV, offering instant repeats, and other themed education, comedy

and drama services. Mr Birt said regulations on the licensing of the set-top boxes contained "important shortcomings". The Depart-ment of Trade and Industry has given Oftel's director general, Don Crickshank, powers to intervene over anti-compet-

itive behaviour. But Mr Birt sald: "Everyone in Parliament, and in the community more widely, in-cluding BSkyB, should want orderly entry into the market-place." It could only be achieved by having common standards through a single

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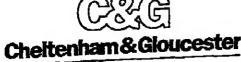
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Peace under pressure in former Yugoslavia

Station 8 back on air

Julian Borger in Belgrade

HE independent Bel-grade radio station B92 went back on the air yesterday evening in one of a series of concessions by the Serbian government, which had shut down the network two days before.

Index, a student radio station, was also back on air. Meanwhile, the unpopular Socialist party boss in the second city of Nis quit and the government promised to pay arrears in student grants and pensions and to cut the cost of electricity. More offi-

cost of electricity. More offi-cials are likely to go.
On the 18th consecutive day of protests against govern-ment rigging of last month's local elections, more than 120,000 demonstrators marched through Belgrade. Government officials hinted yesterday that they would be prepared to acknowledge opposition election wins in Nis, but were not ready to cede control of the capital.

The national broadcasting corporation wrote to B92 to say its transmitter was working again after damage caused by "heavy rain". Journalists at the station believe it had been closed down for



Protesters parade an effigy of President Slobodan Milosevic dressed in a prison uniform through Belgrade yesterday

The 'handmaiden' who punches above his weight

Britain's ambassador to Serbia has rejected accusations that he is appeasing its presidential strongman, reports Julian Borger in Belgrade

demonstrating in the streets of the capital all seem to know who the Brit-ish ambassador is. They do not think much of him.

Aleksandar Zivanovic, a politics student aged 23, was dismissive. "Your man here is far too close to [President Slobodan] Milosevic," he said. "He is on state television all the time. and then Milosevic says "The West is on my side'."

That opinion is not limited to students. In the Washington Post last week, Morton Abramowitz, a for-

VOR ROBERTS, Britain's and president of the Carne-man in Belgrade, is a gle Endowment for Interna-household name in Ser-bia. The students doggedly demonstrating in the "coddling" of Balkan file and mour, has a higher pro-demonstrating in the "coddling" of Balkan file and mour access to the

Mr Abramovitz attacked US officials, and added: "The British have been even worse in playing up to Milo-sevic. In Belgrade, their am-bassador is widely regarded as his handmaiden."

The insult stung the For-eign Office into an immediate retort. Malcolm Rifkind described it as a "disgrace-ful attack on one of our

finest diplomats".

Mr Roberts, aged 50, is the perfect example of what the Foreign Office likes to round much of the time demer United States diplomat | refer to as "punching above | livering very unpleasant | sevic's economic policies.

messages to the regime. People are willing to see me because they think of me as scrupulously fair." The Serbian opposition questions just who is using

whom. Ilija Djukic, a Demo-cratic Party spokesman, ar-gues that Mr Milosevic has failed to meet most of his obligations under the Dayton peace accord.

Meanwhile, Mr Djukic

says, Mr Milosevic has been able to portray himself as a statesman and friend of the West. To this end, US and British diplomats have been "misused and manipulated".

Mr Roberts and Mr Miles appeared on television vis-October at the height of the campaign for federal and local elections. The official media portrayed the visits as a demonstration of approval for President Milo-



High profile: Ivor Roberts

nagazine Nin, said Mr Robert's appearance at a state plastics factory "could only be interpreted as a gesture with political characteristics. It was unpleasant coincidence.'

Mr Roberts is exasper-ated by the charge of taking sides. "It is very difficult to promote British commercial interests when every visit to a factory is manipu-lated by the state media." British policy towards the Balkans has won the country few friends in the Bosnian and Croatian governments. However, Mr Roberts appears to be claw-

When the independent Belgrade radio station, B92, was closed down by the regime this week, Mr Roberts was the first diplomat to turn up at the studios to lend vocal support.

ing back some of the lost

were very grateful, he was here the moment we were closed down and spoke out in front of the cameras," said Aleksandar Vasovic, a B92 editor.

Peter Preston, page 9

Aid terms spelt out

lan Black and David Fairhall

are to increase pressure on the Bosnian authorities to hand over indicted war criminals and will directly link future aid to meeting pledges made under the Day-ton peace accord, it was an-nounced yesterday.

A plan approved by a two-day peace implementation conference in London. attended by 50 countries. promised more resources for the Hague war crimes tribu-nal and the International Police Task Force (IPTF).

It also vowed, though with-out elaboration, to consider "what further measures can be taken to facilitate the delivery of indictees to the tri-bunal for trial".

But Carl Bildt, the high rep-resentative for Bosnia, said police would not have the

power to arrest 70 indicted war criminals still at large, although the conference em-powered the IPTF to investi-gate Bosnian policemen.

The Bosnian president. Alija Izetbegovic, complained: "Apart from the fact that all speakers pointed to the need for arresting war criminals nothing concretely has been

agreed."
Malcolm Rifkind, the For eign Secretary, said: "Bosnia-Herzegovina's leaders can be in no doubt that the international community's willing-ness to devote further human and financial resources to their country is dependent on a strengthened commitment to implementation of the peace agreement in all areas. "It had been assumed we

had an automatic require ment to provide economic and military help. These should not be taken for granted it would be irresponsible for the moment to withdraw that support, but it's not

going to go on indefinitely."

There were few specifics to flesh out the message of "conditionality", but the plan called for more progress on the return of refugees, freedom of movement and communication, and creating common institutions and incommon institutions and in-

dependent media. It called for "early progress" to create a national telephone system, stating: "No new as-sistance will be offered to the telecommunications sector unless connections between

the [separate] systems are in-cluded in the efforts." Reconstruction assistance

will also be linked to the fulfilment of pledges for Bosniawide road and rail systems. national car number plates and jointly administered

Some deadlines are given. though there is no mention of sanctions if they are not met: arms reductions are to be completed by October 1997; municipal elections must be held by next summer; a cen-tral bank should be opera-tional by early next year; and a new flag should fly by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development signed a £21 million loan agreement with Bos-nia yesterday, to improve Sarajevo's airport, roads and bridges. Officials said it was the first loan signed by both

The economic and military help of Western countries should not be taken for granted'

Serb and Muslim-Croat

ratities.
The conclusion of the London conference should enable Nato and Russian ministers meeting in Brussels next week to give a clear nullitary mis-sion to the 31,000-strong multinational "stabilisation force" (S-For) preparing to take over in Bosnia on December 20.

The military chiefs have demanded that the job they do be precisely defined - especially as the available forces are being halved. They want an "integrated" plan of action so they can provide security for relief agencies, police forces and refugee organisations without soldiers being expected to do those organisa-tions' jobs — for which they say they have neither the resources nor the expertise.

The intention is to review S-For's progress every six months and gradually reduce its size. The military accepts that an international force may have to stay beyond the 18-month limit sional deadline still debated within Nato. But it would be expected to have a different mandate and composition.

EU commissioner backs soft drug legalisation

Stephen Bates in Brussels

T IS time to experiment with legalising drugs because prohibition has not worked, according to Emma Bonino, an Italian European

commissioner.
She told a conference at the European Parliament in Brus-sels yesterday: "Thanks to prohibitionist policies, drugs are now goods whose produc-tion, trade and consumption are illegal and yet they are

be able to buy an illegal drug, no matter where you are and whether it is Christmas Eve

periment with drug legalisa-tion and dissussion, reduction of demand through moral persuasion? My answer is clear and it is yes . . . I simply believe in personal responsibilities and personal choices. "The state is not there to dictate personal choices and behaviours. Any meaningful

stations, but you will always | try to convince drug users | should be available for sale | presidency — and the lead in | be able to buy an illegal drug, | that their choices are self-de- | and that hard drugs could be | policy formulation — at the | structive, but we have no right to impose on them our

file and more access to the president than any other

Western envoy, including the head of the US mission,

Mr Roberts, who has been

in Belgrade since March 1994, argues that by keep-

ing a channel to Mr Milose-

vic, it has been possible to exert pressure on the Ser-

bian regime both during

the Bosnian war and in the uneasy peace after it.

Richard Miles.

Ms Bonino, whose responsi-"Should we not try to exbilities include humanitarian aid and consumer affairs but not drugs, stressed she was speaking in a personal capacity. But her call for a softer line is sure to anger most member states, many of which are trying to co-ordinate tougher sentencing policies. The commissioner — who

made available, under medi-cal supervision, by prescription.

The conference was organised by a radical anti-prohibitionist organisation and attended by, among others, Danny Cohn-Bendit, the student agitator of the 1960s who now sits as a German Green MEP. It came just days after the Netherlands infuriated member states by opposing attempts to harmonise drug laws at a meeting of justice and home affairs ministers. that the policy allows French are megal and yet they are penaviours. Any meaning of purposes that the french one can buy anytime and anywhere. McDonaid's outlets occasionally close, so do gas there is no crime ... We can be smoker but not to trying anytime and home affairs ministers. The Netherlands takes over continuity.

start of next year. But it has clashed with the other members over its liberal penal policies just as serious attempts are under way to co-ordinate the struggle against interna-

which permit the sale of small quantities of cannabis in reg-ulated coffee shops, have irricitizens to smuggle the drug

Hedy d'Ancona, a former Dutch health minister, backed her country's policy at the conference, claiming that the legalisation of soft drugs had helped discourage experi-mentation with harder drugs

and reduced trafficking.

A recent report by the EU's drugs monitoring unit shows tional crime.

Drug policy is the responsibility of individual states but the Netherlands' liberal laws.

A recent report by the EU's drugs monitoring unit shows little correlation between the harshness of a state's policies and the level of drug abuse. It estimates that 20 per cent of Europe's teenagers have tried cannabis, 16 per cent solvents and 5 per cent amphetamines. But only 2 per cent have ex-perimented with cocaine and I per cent with heroin.

World news in brief

US warms China not to drop Hong Kong legislature

THE US said yesterday it was unhappy at the progress of human rights talks with a provisional body when with China — and warned it will oppose any moves in Beijing to disband Hong

Kong's elected legislature. Changes to the legislature would be "both unnecessary and unwise", said Winston Lord, US assistant secretary of state, at the end of a two-day significant to the end of day visit to Hong Kong. "The US has a very strong interest in seeing a smooth and successful transition here and will be working to support that process," he added.

Colombian

massacre

it takes over the territory in the middle of next year. A Beijing-controlled committee will name the 60-member interim body by the end of this

month. Apart from recent clashes over Hong Kong, Beljing and Washington have had other differences over the annual review of China's "Most Favoured Nation" trading status, which governs copyright protection and textile quotas. — Reuter.



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Suu Kyi freed Burma's pro-democracy oppo-



Madonna receives an artist achievement award during the seventh annual the seventh annual Billboard music awards in Las Vegas yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE MARCUS

More to settle in West Bank

guerrilla groups.

Meanwhile an entire family, including three children, was hacked to death with machetes in Boyacá province.

Israel is letting Jews occupy 100 more homes in the West Bank, an aide to the prime minister, Binyamin Netan-yahu, said yesterday.

David Bar-Illan said permits had been granted for homes in the Jewish settle-ment of Kedumim near Nablus. Israel's previous govern-ment had refused to grant the occupancy permits. — Reuter.

Burma's pro-democracy opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was released from confinement at her Rangoon home yesterday and promptly

called for her country to be excluded from the regional Association of South-East Asian Nations bloc. — Reuter.

Gays must wait

Gay couples in America hoping to marry in Hawaii will have to wait, writes Christopher Reed in Los Angeles, Judge Kevin Chang who permitted such unions has now agreed to suspend judgment while the state appeals.

Royal operations Thais honoured King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 50th anniverClinton appoints woman to top job for the first time and keeps promise to create a bipartisan cabinet

Albright makes history

Martin Walker

ms

HR United States president, Bill Clinton, made feminist history yesterday, nominating the US ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, to be the first woman secretary of state as beed of a new first woman secretary of state as beed of a new first woman secretary of state as beed of a new first woman secretary of state as beed of a new first woman secretary of state as beed of a new first woman secretary of state as beed of a new first woman secretary of state as beed of a new first woman secretary of state as the secretary of secretary of state as the secretary o tary of state, as head of a new national security team.

Delivering on his promise to bring a bi-partisan cast to his cabinet, Mr Clinton also named a retiring Republican senator from Maine, William Cohen, to be the new defence secretary. He will be the first published next and services. published poet and novelist to

run the Pentagon.
Mr Clinton's outgoing national security adviser,
Anthony Lake, is to become the director of the CIA, and will be replaced at the national security council by his deputy,

These appointments, which had been widely trailed in recent days, leave some Dem-

'She is a woman of deep conviction and grace under pressure'

ocrats discomfited. They include the former Senate leader George Mitchell.
whose work on the Northern
Ireland peace process had
made him a strong contender
for the state department, and the former senator Sam Nunn, who had been tipped for the Pentagon. Mr Mitchell is expected to be given the consolation prize of the next

supreme court appointment. The seal on the choice of Ms Albright was this week's formal act of surrender by the UN secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, giving up his attempt to dely the US veto and run for a second term.

But what became an almost personal duel between the Egyptian UN secretary-general and Ms Albright has left but the man to watch may bruised feelings in France, Africa and the Arab world, Mr Clinton when they worked

which could yet haunt her. Born in Czechoslovakia, and with pungent memories of British bomb shelters during the second world war before coming with her diplo-mat father to the US, Ms Al-bright is fluent in Polish, relationship with Mr Clinton The two leaders von French and Russian.

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THE PREVAILING MATES FOR

She brings a strong emo-tional commitment to her job, which was most visible in her constant lobbying for US com-mitment to Bosnia in 1993-94, and in her belief that eastern European countries have a right to join Western institutions such as Nato and the

European Union.
A former professor of international relations at George-town University, Ms Albright came to know Mr Clinton, the then governor, and his wife when she hosted a series of private seminars on foreign affairs at her home, to which the rising stars of the Demo-cratic Party were invited in

the 1980s. Ms Albright's cause was Ms Albright's cause was strongly urged by Mrs Clinton, who is a personal friend, and by women's groups who lobbied the White House to remind the president that "the gender gap" of women's votes had re-elected him. She was also extractly bested by was also strongly backed by General John Shalikashvili at the Pentagon, with whom she cultivated strong links on several trips to eastern Europe.
"She is a unique blend of the skilled diplomat and the compassionate humanitarian, a woman of brilliant thought,

deep conviction and grace under pressure," Gen Shall-kashvili said last year. Ms Albright is considered hard-working and outspoken, but some question her creden-tials as a strategic thinker on the global scene.

Mr Clinton's choices also reflected the influence of the vice-president, Al Gore, who supported Mr Cohen and who needs female voters for his planned presidential race four years from now.

The new national security team of Ms Albright, a hawk-

ish Democrat, and Mr Cohen, a dovish Republican, should face little difficulty in gaining consent from the Republican Mr Cohen, aged 56, rose to

national prominence when he cast one of the first Republican votes to impeach President Richard Nixon, and later played a leading role in the Iran-Contra hearings.

together on George McGov-ern's anti-Vietnam war presidential campaign in 1972.

Plump, tough and efficient

— and too self-assured to need



US-Russia summit next year

yesterday in a 20-minute telephone conversation to hold a summit in the US in the first half of next year, writes Mar-tin Walker in Washington. But the precise date

remains in question because of Russian objections to the

RESIDENT Bill Clinton desire to advance relations and President Boris between the two countries.

nuclear safety summif.
The Nato dispute threatens to make this the most difficult and possibly the most moisfaction with their mutual Soviet Union.

What price

Mr Yeltsin, just released | ion in Russia. Mr Clinton has from his Moscow clinic after | said that he intends to use the his apparently successful next Nato summit in the met in Moscow in April at a

last appeal against the absorption of former Warsaw Pact countries into Nato, arter, which would be sometremist and nationalist opin- Nato and Russia.

recuperation from heart surgery, is pressing hard to come to the US before the Nato summit.

He is expected to make one the company and the Czech Republic.

The appointment of Madeleine Albright (left),

Washington's outspoken

scaled with the surrender

by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali of

envoy to the UN, as

secretary of state was

his attempt to seek a second term. Anthony

Republican William

director and the

Lake (top) becomes CIA

Cohen (above) becomes

the first poet to run the

mentous Rast-West summit guing that nothing could be thing more than a letter but

Jail for talk show guest who killed gay admirer

Richard Thomas reports from Washington on a trial which has raised concerns about 'trash TV'

ONTROVERSY in the US over so-called "ambush" television shows intensified yesterday after a man was sent to jail for murdering a gay ad-mirer who confessed to his crush on a talk show.

Despite a moving but gar-bled plea from Jonathan Schmitz, aged 26, a court in Michigan said he would years for his crime The family of his victim,

Scott Amedure, welcomed the verdict and pledged to press on with a \$25 million (£15 million) lawsuit against the Jenny Jones against the semy some programme which led to the killing. On the pro-gramme, a guest is brought face to face with a secret admirer. Schmitz, who said he had

been humiliated by the tele-vised confrontation with Amedure in March 1995, told Judge Francis O'Brien he regretted the murder and its impact on the vic-tim's family.

if in my sorrow ... It is squeezing my heart, it has restriction on my soul. Set me free by taking it or leave me in this hole."

Opponents of programmes which rely on shock and exposure to win viewers said the conclusion of the trial was a lesson in

of the trial was a lesson in the growing dangers of

The testimony of the show's host, Jenny Jones, in which she said the content and development of each programme was un-known to her, fuelled criticism of the networks for running sexually charged live chat shows. At least one network has dropped the show, and the Republi-can challenger Bob Dole seized on the downmarket drive of television and Hollywood during his pres-

Schmitz's family blamed of control three days after | least 25 years for murder

the recording, when he shot Amedure after finding a suggestive note on his

doorstep.
His father, Allyn Schmitz, said: "The show's secret admirer threw my son into a fit of depression. My son was a good boy. We raised Jonathan with honour and love." Lawyers for the Schmitz family said they would immediately ap-peal against the ruling— which also added two years for illegal firearms

But the 32-year-old vic-But the 32-year-old victim's mother. Patricia Graves, struggling to speak through her tears, described her son's killer as "a monster who deserves to pay for the rest of his life".

Judge O'Brien said he had taken account of Schmitz's depression and Schmitz's depression and alcoholism in deciding on an appropriate sentence.
"But you still have to be accountable to society," he

Trial witnesses said Schmitz believed he was on the show to meet a female admirer, and was humiliated when Amedure appeared. He had attended the show — unbeknown to him titled "Same-Sex Secret Crushes" but never aired — with a friend who knew Amedure.

Although campaigners against trash TV — including the Democrat senator "Will they accept my Joe Lieberman — are step-sorry?" he asked. "I found ping up their campaign it in my sorrow ... It is against confrontational shows, the Jenny Jones programme is continuing undaunted. Future topics include "My Mom had an affair with my man" and "I let my lover have affairs while I was pregnant".



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Diddling war pensioners

John Major was rattled because he was rumbled

THE CHARITY COMMISSION warned | describes what it was like on the oppopeople yesterday about bogus collectors dressing up as Father Christmases in the festive season to take advantage of public goodwill. "Appearances," it declared "can be deceptive." It should not have stopped there. A well-dressed man in Parliament tried yesterday against all the facts — to dress himself further increases as his hearing got up as defender of war pensioners and their dependents when his party was in the process of making them £50 million one of 10 poorer. The Prime Minister described this cut. yesterday's report in The Guardian on his party's latest changes to war pensions as misleading and inaccurate. He medical advice — that hearing damaged denied any war pensioner was going to lose money. Tony Blair, the Labour leader and Alan Beith, the Liberal Demgovernment which has ignored medical ocrat MP, had just been misled by the advice on a host of issues: banning Guardian's reports. All the Govern- tobacco advertising, the effects of povment was doing was simplifying 19 erty on health, the need for better sex complex measures and following new education for teenagers, stricter drink independent medical advice concerning | driving controls. Moreover, it is advice pensions for loss of hearing. Perhaps | disputed by other medical experts, who we can clarify some points.

our figures but the estimates of his absorb age-related deterioration with-We were quoting from a private letter sent by Mr Lilley to William Walde-grave, the Chief Secretary, protesting over the cuts which the Treasury had Waldegrave insisted on imposing the demanded. It was Mr Lilley, not us, who cuts. As Mr Lilley noted in his letter to calculated that the savings from the Mr Waldegrave: "You will recall that I "simplification" of the procedures (like not sending out reminders to return claims or seek increases) would rise to £15 million and the savings from the new restrictions on pension entitlement to hearing loss would rise to £35 million. Indeed, according to the confidential letter, this last cut raised more initial negotiations.

was blown up in a tank in 1945, and minded".

global coalition of ex-generals and ad-

mirals who called yesterday for a deter-

mined drive to rid the world of nuclear

most intimate hands-on experience.

This initiative follows the recommenda-

tion of the equally weighty Canberra Commission on eliminating nuclear

warheads. It is less than three years

since General George Lee Butler

stepped down from running the US

Strategic Air Command. On taking over

there, he had cut the number of nuclear

targets by four-fifths. The strategists, he concluded, were living in a world of

illusion, with a secret war plan for a

huge over-kill strike upon Moscow. He

and many colleagues were also increas-

ingly worried by the possibilities of

nuclear war by accident. He says be

had studied an "appalling array of acci-

dents and incidents" involving nuclear

weapons. An echo of these recently

surfaced, in spite of MoD attempts at

suppression, in the reports of several

nuclear near-disasters at US airfields in

Britain. Field Marshal Lord Carver

should also be taken very seriously

when he argues that nuclear bombs

have "no utility as a military weapon."

He points to the lack of strategic ratio-

nale after the cold war, the appalling

destructiveness if such weapons should

come to be used, and the growing dan-

ger of proliferation unless nuclear dis-

armament can be achieved.

The new nuclear orthodoxy

MIDO KIDOM

Who are we to resist the arguments of so many generals?

BANNING THE bomb has become an | All five overt nuclear powers claim

best what nuclear war would mean. The | to nuclear zero: but not one of them

weapons is talking on the basis of the dubious history. There was no nuclear

site page. Mr Heath receives a small pension for his partial loss of hearing from that event but under the new changes, he will no longer be eligible for further pension increases as his hearing deteriorates. Until now, Mr Heath was assured of a succession of worse. Now he will get nothing extra no matter how much it deteriorates. He is one of 10,000 a year who will lose out by

explain that but for war damage, many The losses Mr Major disputes are not ex service people would be able to Social Security Secretary, Peter Lilley. out any effect on their hearing. This has been the approach until now. Moreover, Waldegrave insisted on imposing the said at the bilateral that all my ministers were against this move and it is not something we would choose to do ...

John Major was rattled yesterday in Parliament, slamming down his papers on the despatch box and lashing out at the Opposition and The Guardian. He was rattled for a very good reason. He money than originally estimated in the | had been rumbled. His Chancellor's innocuous paragraph on war pensions Then there is Mr Major's claim that in last week's budget was in fact a cover no existing war pensioner would be for cuts which were rightly described affected. Tell that to Tony Heath, who | yesterday as "shabby and mean-

inat they would like to see a reduction

really regards this as a desirable goal.

Their secret conviction that nuclear

weapons should be retained is based on

conflict during the cold war, they ar-

gue, therefore there could not have

been one. The Soviet Union collapsed

and therefore the deterrent "worked".

The logical flaws are evident in any

case, the situation today is very differ-

ent. Proliferation, as General Butler

remarks, cannot be contained "in a

world where a handful of self-appointed

nations both arrogate to themselves the

privilege of owning nuclear weapons

and extol the ultimate security assur-

ances they assert such weapons con-

vey." To argue that nuclear weapons

are an insurance against a new cold

war is a sure way of strengthening the

Those who spoke out against nuclear

weapons before, who were labelled

peaceniks or comsymps, who were the

target of secret surveillance, harass-

ment and dirty tricks, may be allowed a

quiet smile now that their heresies

may even help persuade President Clin-

ton to adopt nuclear renunciation as an

well as principled for the British gov-

ernment not to be left behind.

hardliners in Moscow.



Letters to the Editor

Various Lords a-leaping A fertile choice of views on the Pro-Life abortion lobby

OME family background may help to put Lord which is white, male, public-school educated with an above-average involvement in field sports and the support of the second House but to make such people subtree filed sports and the support of the can have his place if the problem. Lords, December 5) in context. He sits in the Lords as a life baron and will be unaffected by Labour's proposed change. He also, confusingly, has the courtesy title of Viscount, since he can expect to become the Seventh Marquess of Salis-bury. Courtesy titles do not confer a right to ait in the Lords, which is why the life

peerage was created.
The Cecils (Lord Cranborne's family) are the most remarkable political dynasty in the country. The Second Third, Fourth, Fifth and (future) Seventh Marquesses have all been in the Cabinet, the Third Marquess as Queen Victoria's last prime minister.

However, the most eminent of the Cecils is certainly the Third Marquess, who carried out a long rearguard action against democracy (a syn-onym for mob rule in 19th-century aristocratic circles). He resigned from the Disraeli cabinet over the extension of the franchise in the Second Reform Act of 1867. Lord Cranborne refers to

fect, chosen by lot. This is a false analogy. In a lottery anyone can buy a ticket. Sales of tickets for this lottery were closed in 1964 when (with only two subsequent exceptions the creation of new non-royal hereditary peerages ended. He has a valid point about having a second House which is as full of professional politicians as the Commons. The chal-lenge is to find a way of enlisting disinterested talent that does not simply depend on being the son of your father. David Bewers. 28 Redcliffe Gardens, Ilford IG1 3HQ.

ORD CRANBORNE believes that Tory bereditary peers "represent" the charities. Tory hereditary peers are a very accurate sample. Lord Carter.

London SW1A 0AA.

ORD Cramborne (or The Viscount Cramborne, as he once styled himself in correspondence with me, as if he were a pub in the Mile End Road) is economical with the truth.
The hereditary peerage is not "a body chosen by lot" —

unless we assume that to have been the means employed by previous monarchs to select their bedfellows of whatever sexual orientation. And to suggest that the degenerate descendants of these encounters are "not paid" when they pre-sume to govern us ignores both their parliamentary allowances and, often, their ministerial salaries. Why do we, alone in Europe, continue to put up with this

sort of thing? (Dr) J E Coombes. 3 D'Arcy Heights, Colchester CO2 8AD.

F course Lord Cranborne doesn't feel the need to climb the greasy pole of amb-ition — he was, after all, born pretty close to the top and has no need to seek anyone's Paul Richards. votes. But he mistakes the objection to the bereditary vote: London W6 9DA.

trol. He can have his place if the people so choose, by what-ever mechanism they choose being born is not enough.
 Lesley Furlonger. Park House, Bradwell, Braintree,

ORD Cranborne has a sepoint: there needs to be an adequate check on the powers of the government of the day, and the system he advocates — amateur politicians, un-paid, chosen at random — is a good one. Once the voting rights of hereditary peers have been abolished, let all National Lottery jackpot win-ners be given life peerages. We could call them the Lorde of could call them the Lords of the Round Table.

Jane Carnall. 63 Montgomery Street, Edinburgh EH7 5HZ.

ERHAPS the best example of the absurdity of the he-reditary principle is the way the poll tax was forced through on the votes of heredi-tary peers, despite the life peers' votes against.

staumchest proponents of the poll tax on the night of the vote in the Lords was that champion of all that is decent 109 Hammersmith Bridge Road,



WHY did Bruce Kent of Grot (Letters, December 4), who complains about Perry Marsh splitting the opposition vote in Basildon. have become so widely accepted. But stand as Labour candidate for the dominant feeling must be satisfac-Oxford West and Abingdon at the last general election? It tion that this is now a mainstream was a seat he could not poss-ibly hope to win. By splitting the opposition vote he made sure that one more Conservdebate. The latest move in Washington explicit goal. It would be prudent as ative (John Patten) was returned.

Chairman, Cads (Campaign Against Double Standards). Croglin Cottage, Friday Lans, Charlton St Peter, WILLS SN9 6EY.

O E Dyer (Letters, Decem-ber 5) sees a contradiction between reading broadening the mind and Dr Ian Paisley's possession of 15,000 books There is no contradiction.
The books consist of one Bible and 14,999 autographed copies of Dr Paisley's memoirs. Peter Gitsham. 4 Haddenhurst Court, Terrace Road, Binfield RG42 4BQ.

F, as you report, the Scottish National Party has indeed been pedalling a private Labour Party survey (Labour focus finds Blair smarmy, December 5), Tony Blair and Co have good cause to be alarmed. Thousands of SNP activists canvassing on bicycles, possibly equipped with trouser clips as well (if funds

permit), could well be irresist-ible to voters. Eric Kime. 35 Buxton Lane, Marple, Stockport SK6 7QL

Please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are preferred.

OROTHY Rowe is right (A gross distortion, December 3): bulimia is an interpretable of thin (or "fat" and unhappy)

them - especially in matters

Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8JG.

women by forcing them to be thin (or "fat" and unhappy) does not stand up. A thin woman, by coming closer to the male form, can more easily challenge men in their traring the distinction between women and men. If men wanted to control women by means of their weight, logically they would insist that women put on weight to conform to a "feminine" ideal that Rowe admits was prevalent until very recently. It would thus be easier to confine them to a female ghetto. Steve Green.

1 Castle Hall, Cragg Vale, Hebden Bridge, W Yorks.

OWE claims that men "need" to feel more powerful than women, and that the imposition of thinness is just another manifestation of this. It might be more productive to look at the needs of the food industry to sell us lots of sugar and fat. One could conside the increased production of "body beautiful" images of both men and women and how this oppresses us, but also ex-presses some desire made by

the issue of illness. Anorexia, bulimia and obesity threaten well-being at least, and kill at worst. It is an academic and irresponsible posture to claim that naming these as illnesses is just another male construct. One suspects that, couched in the terms Rowe employs, we will always be slaves to some ideal, and that there will be no natural or free use or image of

53 Alkham Road,

CATHERINE Bennett should look on the bright side of British abortion politics (Abortion debate is still a minefield, December 4). Where pro-life candidates are planning to stand for election, it simply shows that democracy is working.

The parliamentary compromise which exists on abortion that the standard part of the stan

mise which exists on abortion politics is in many respects very decent. You vote according to your conscience. If you think it is always the woman's right to choose, you may vote that way: if you be-lieve the foetus is a human life which is entitled not to be deliberately destroyed, you may vote the other way. If pro-life candidates get enough

support, that's democracy.
Barbara Follett elicited protest not merely because she is "pro-choice" but because Emily's List has contained a coercive clause which a pro-life candidate could not sign and it thus breached the par-liamentary tradition of respecting conscience. If Mrs Follett would make a state-ment saying that she, and Emlly's List, respect the confollowing in the honourable parliamentary tradition of not applying whips on mat Mary Kenny. The Reform Club,

London SW1. CATHERINE Bennett media perceptions of the de-bate over abortion have ground. But many Christians are not "religious fanatics". The last General Synod de-

bate on abortion in 1993 clearly expressed views which should command wide support: there are far too any abortions; the demand for abortion must be reduced: abortion should never be undertaken lightly but only after the most serious moral reflection; when it must be carried out it should be done as early as possible; late abortion for serious foetal handicap" must be inter-preted strictly.

If public support is to be won for such a position it is important for voices to be heard resisting the direction taken by abortion campaigners in the US. (Rt Rev) Richard Harries. Bishop of Oxford. Diocesan Church House.

"moral" weight around, they would have to admit that there is more to solving the there is more to solving the "problem" of abortion than their simplistic programme of a) outlawing the procedure (we all know what happens then) and b) stopping people (particularly the young, the unmarried, the lower orders etc) from having sex.

If they are serious about reducing the number of ter-

reducing the number of terminations, they should lend their (depressingly) substan-tial influence and high profile to campaigning for better family-planning services and compulsory and effective sex

education. Root Cartwright. Chairman, British Organisation of Non-Parents. BM Box 5866, London WC1N 3XX.

chrough on the votes of heredi-bary peers, despite the life differently from her, and that pro-life women are equally pro-abortion" are a figment of the staunchest proponents of the ly's List, she would be too. Later she quotes the CATHERINE Bennett Abortion Law Reform Association as saying: "As far as we are concerned it is irrelevant what the foetus looks like until it is capable of existence outside the womb". Irrelevant too, this position implies, if it iliar voices or music. Sounds pretty militant to me. Peter Totman. Aston Road.

A brush-off

T is outrageous for Natasha Walter (Small art prize in London: not many shocked November 28) to suggest our art establishment is "pro-foundly unoriginal". It takes five years of art-school training with the most arduous, intensive suspension of mind, sense and reason to achieve the skills in fashion today. How else could Sarah Lucas relive her infancy; or Rachel Whiteread gain the confidence for her jelly-mould sculptures? Look at the pain these artists bear: incessant media coverage, huge cheques from the Saatchis, canapes by the cart-load, not to mention the hugs and kisses till you drop. Marie McDougall. 172 Huntingfield Road, London SW15 5ES.

A Country Diary

North Hinksey, Oxford OX2 0NB.

THE BURREN and WEX- | home of the froacan (fraugh-FORD, Ireland: There I was, in my beloved county, Wexford — the return of the na-tive! I climbed Carrigbyrne (Byrne's Rock) near New Ross. The wind tore at the beech and pines as I scram-bled up the moist and slippery moss-covered rocks — good, hard granite ones, darkened to deep brown by rain and very different from our Burren limestone which turns slate blue to pewter in similar weather. I was accompanied by a neighbour's spaniel which frequently disappeared into thick undergrowth, re-emerging to check on me. When I reached the top, I could see below

neatly tilled fields mixed with pasturage; in the middle distance Beg Erin Hill where a beautiful gold torc was found. A little further lay Slieve Coilte (Wooded Mountain) where as children we cycled for summer picnics and al-ways to watch, from a distance and well-hidden, the lovely wild horses native to its summit and slopes. Indeed Carrigbyrne itself was the

aun) or whortleberry. Here, on a fixed Sunday in September, parents and children came with milk cans to pick the berries, an early arrival being essential. Later the smell of whortleberry ples filled the kitchens. My father and his brothers "dropped in" on neighbours to taste their pies, returning home to chant "Leave the rest, leave the rest, Tis mother's pie is best." Later we walked in Johnstown Castle Gardens, Mary Ann gathering beech nuts and acorns for planting in our Burren garden while peacocks screeched; robins, blackbirds sang, swans gently glided on the reflecting lake. We returned to a Burren of roaring wind, the sea a furious expanse of white waves thundering across a nowluminous green, now a darkened grey as light changed with massive clouds, white to black hurtling over blue patches, a watery sun while rain sheeted: Emerson's "tumultuous privacy of storm.

SARAH POYNTZ

The cost of infamy for a day

It will take ages for trivia-challenged Birkbeck to recover

BIRKBECK College London has many claims to educational fame. But there is scattered with splendid people and inbound to be a fear in deepest Blooms- stitutions only remembered for trivial bury this week that the college is doomed for a while to be synonymous | it. Glamorgan cricket club used to have in the public mind with a single event Tuesday night's round of University Challenge, in which Birkbeck suffered the show's heaviest trouncing, losing by 360 points to 40 to a rampant Manchester University team.

No one seriously supposes that such a walkover is an accurate reflection of intellectual standards at Birkbeck or of its academic qualities relative to Manchester. No college which employed Eric Hobsbawm for so long need be afraid to trade braininess with the best. But mud has a nasty way of sticking, which is why the politically savvy Master of Birkbeck, Tessa Blackstone, rapidly rebutted any such suggestion after the defeat on Tuesday. Only a game? Tell it to the admissions office.

It's all terribly unfair. The world is humiliation. Now they are stuck with a spin bowler called Malcolm Nash, who led a blameless and successful life but who was and is famous only for the over he bowled to Sir Garfield Sobers in 1968 in which every ball was hit for six.

Twenty-five years ago, it was possible for Balliol College Oxford to swank its way on to University Challenge, get humiliatingly drubbed by St David's Lampeter, and still come safe home without anyone thinking it was worth anything more than a paragraph in William Hickey. Today, in the era of educational league tables, such Corinthian unconcern is no longer possible. But anyway, who would want to go to a university where, as Jeremy Paxman has observed, they obviously read dictionaries in bed?

Got Rid Of That | Thin is in, but fat's where it's at

understandable response to the relentless pressure on women to be thin. But her thesis that thinness is imposed on women by men is out of date. The feminist argu-ment — that women conform to the prevalent ideal because of oppression by men — is

Women do not have to colwomen do not have to conlude: they choose to do so. It is
not men who run slimming
clubs. When I started
researching my book on the
politics of size oppression
(The Forbidden Body. Why
Debug Fort Is Not a Size) I be Being Fat Is Not a Sin), I too believed that men were the source of the prejudice, dis-crimination and contempt directed at overweight women. My feminist convicwomen. My teminist convic-tions and ideals were over-turned as it became apparent that the major part of large women's suffering derived from the persecution meted out by other women. On the whole it is women who make large women feel that they are inferior beings whose only salvation lies in weight loss. The truth is that men no longer need to oppress women be-cause women will do it for of size and weight.

Shelley Bovey. Lantern Cottage, 90 Bove Town.

OROTHY Rowe is wrong. The vast majority of men of my acquaintance find a wide variety of body-shapes attractive; I am sad to say that the majority of women I have met only regard thin women as being attractive. Her argument that men London N167AA

There is confusion also on

our bodies. Jaimie Shorten.

Matthew Norman

HE Diary has learned how Lord Carnaryon's spirits must have soared when he found Tutankhamen's tomb. For a wondrous object, spoken of with awe for years but until now thought to be mythical has come into our posses-sion. Your Guide To Working For Harriet is a 10-page guide — 10 pages; what a tri-umph for the art of precis — for employees of the Shadow Health Secretary. It arrived anonymously by post and, having thought hard about calling her office and returning it, we have de-cided to publish and be

damned. The first instalment of our inaugural Leak Of The Week comes from Telephone Calls" on page 1. "If Jack Dromey" (her old man) "calls and Harriet is on the phone always indi-cate that Jack is on the phone." It's almost too sophisticated, isn't it? We continue next week with school arrangements for Harriet's kids (always fun, that one) and handling Harriet's engagements. As Schliemann might have put it, I have gazed upon the guide to Harriet Harman.

ET another document arrives from the heart of New Labour. This one is a letter from Jack The Hat Straw, replying to the item about the fedora he has taken to wearing in tribute to his idol and namesake, Jack McVitle. "Some members of the PLP have also advised me to acquire a vio-lin case," the Hat writes. A triendly word in his shelllike comes from an old friend. "Tell that squeegee geezer to watch 'isself," said so profundo in Boris the Jackal Johnson's office, "and not to come dahn our manor, unless'e wants a 'iding. Nothing personal, like, but but the Guy'nor don't take kindly to liberties."

ISTRESSING news page of the London Evening Standard: the splendidly named Everhappy Ltd has called in the

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Production in

N the London Review of Books, Paul Foot reviews my friend Andrew Neil's self-effacing autobiography Full Disclosure, and notes an omission which he is after becoming editor in 1983, Andrew wrote to a senior official at Kensington Council on Sunday Times notepaper, asking for help: the problem, he ex-plained, was that his resident's parking permit did not cover the cars driven by erated on shifts . . . so could he please have two more? No, the official replied, he could not. Never let Andrew be accused of petty spite. As Paul Foot recalls: "He clipped the correspondence together and scrawled on it the following note to his see retary: 'Joan — let's set Insight on to this lot'." Ah, couldn't you just eat him

AM baffled to note that suddenly, thanks to Channel 4 sitcom Father Ted, the word "feck" is permissible even in middle-market tabloids. Last week, for example, the phrase "feck off" appeared with no hint of an asterisk in the Express. But why is "feck" alright where f", or even f"ck, is not? For guidance. we turn to my old friend and ally in the buttle against filth, Mrs Mary Whitehouse. "Do you mean in-stead of saving 'sex'?" she said. "No? Well, what then? Oh blimey. Oh dear. Well, if it's really meant to be that word, I don't think it is ac-ceptable at all," says Mrs Whitehouse persuasively.
"All they're doing is passing
the buck." Or does she mean

Nan important announcement from the medical world. Ellen Keist from Greenland and Harald Moi, a Norwegian, bave been awarded a prestigious "Ig-Nobel" prize by the Harvard-published An-nals of Improbable Research, the Fortean Times reports. The award honours people whose achievements "cannot or should not be repro-duced"...in the case of this pair, for their groundbreaking report. Transmission Of Gonorrhoea Through An Inflatable



Accusal Acaten Servat now E4 99 inc Påp i Samera Publiching, Terralih, Carrigan SA43 2.kg 01279 811 242

Imagine Bosnia on the Streets of Coventry The serried, squabbling ranks of Ruro-diplomacy, too keen on keeping the peace they have, to see the wider world beyond. For once, though, the parcel doesn't pass so easily. Clinton hasn't jetted to the walls of Belgrade or put re-imposed sanctions back at the top of sanctions back at the t

Commentary

Peter **Preston**

HE faces, tramping day after day through the swirling sleet of the Balkan winter. speak eloquently for them-selves. Men and women, old and very young: all seeming to glow with determination. to glow with determination. Television has done a good job here (maybe because Kate Adie is there). You know that the Belgrade streets are alive with peaceful protest. You know that a debased regime—the fount of everything horrible that happened to Bosnia—is reeling near disjutegration. We know what integration. We know what the ordinary people of Serbia are doing for themselves. But that is not enough. Where are the rest of us?

Where, in the formight of mounting disgust since Slobodan Milosevic wiped away the results of elections he'd lost, results of elections he'd lost, are the front page newspaper helplessness. More doom, stories that go with the TV more disaster, more Africa. Is

pictures? Where are the back-benchers hopping up and down? Where, passing puff-ings aside, is our Government — or our Opposition? Where's the pressure? — The questions, you see, are not really home thoughts for abroad. They begin and end at home. Half a decade ago, as the final bastions of the old Eastern European world crumbled, we saw the same

crumbled, we saw the same faces, the same determina-tion; and rejoiced. There was Prague, suddenly free. There was Berlin, suddenly reunited. There — most mov-ingly of all — was Bucharest. Shared experience and shared exultation.
Was that merely self-serv-

ing — simple relief that a seeming threat to cosy British hearths and Christmas boozeups had been magically removed? Or did it mean something more: that the freesomething more that the free-doms, the human dignities, we had were available again to oppressed millions in a scatter of grim, grey lands? The last few years have brought a dismal weariness. Maybe understandably. Compassion Fatigue — too many pictures of too many people far away, starving — has its

pictures? Where are the back- | there indeed nothing to be done? But now, it seems, we have Idealism Fatigue: in Europe, about the border-lands of Europe. That's differ-ent, and somehow bleaker. Turning the tide of despair is one thing: failing to ride a tide of hope quite another.

Margaret Thatcher, long ago, was right about one thing. True democracies tend

not to go to war with each other. The intrinsic dialogue between leaders and led is too complex and human, too nervously apprehensive. Peace and freedom do go together. Peace in the Balkans goes with freedom in the Balkans. Maybe we can't ordain that: but nor can we stand aside when there is a spontaneous combustion of change. To prop up Milosevic today in order to preserve the patched fabric of Dayton a year ago is monetrous error priorities. monstrous error, priorities malignly reversed. One reason why Serbia is bubbling is because there has been a year of peace — a time to contemplate not external threat but internal corrup-

tion. A freedom agenda.

Ah, you say, but who's to blame? Somebody up there we don't like. Bill Clinton and his and his twisting FO minions.

doesn't pass so easily. Clinton hasn't jetted to the walls of Belgrade or put re-imposed sanctions back at the top of the list. But his words have been fierce, his injunctions against a Balken Tianamen Sougre numistakeeble. And Square unmistakeeble. And the Voice of America has been summoned to the colours: to broadcast the news and the views that Milosevic has swept from the air-

pendent stations and journals Serbia had left. That, at least, shows America can still recognise a free-dom issue when it slaps the

waves, banning the few inde-

Peace and freedom do go together. Peace in the Balkans goes with freedom in the Balkans

State Department in the face. Of course there should be more than this. But the place to demand and to generate it is not in the chancelleries of the West it's where hundreds of thousands of brave Serbs

have begun for themselves—
with the people.

Do we care as we used to?
Do we identify? It's easy to
explain—fear of a global
threat removed—why alumping back into small corners is introverted administration of the natural option. Why a temporising business of ours transition. Malcolm Rifkind Baywatch babe's new baby or and his twisting FO minions. broken marriage is top of the right?

the punter - the viewer, lis-

tener, reader — wants. But if we're all (in a way) But if we're all (in a way) guilty, we can all sit up straight. There are great, binding causes left. The first of them, for us, is the spread of democracy: from belief, and from the self-interest of securer peace. Perhaps there can't be equality to such farmer. We may fashly leave vour. We may, feebly, leave the Burmese generals or Beijing until a little later. Slobodan Milosevic, however, is our European affair (just like Franjo Tudiman). These are

the specires at our gates.
Their fall — or their survival — make an immediate, identifiable difference. They identifiable difference. They open up a part of Europe, or close it down in continued repression. And the faces on the streets of Belgrade might be faces on the streets of Coventry: people like us, wanting what we have for themselves. That seems to me a cause worth stirring for. And the lack of such stirring — the ab-sence of pressure — is the dif-ference that five years have

made to us. No more sunken calcula-tion. Of course there may be Dayton difficulties. Of course the leaders who follow Milosevic may prove frail. Zoran Djindile, the new main man, thinks that "if you want to pursue morality, you're better off in church". But what

and none of them are taken without a good deal of research information on what



Bel Littlejohn

ON'T get me wrong. The polls have never looked better. We're on course for victory — great news for everyone, not least my good friend Barbara Follett. Once she's won her seat at long last she won't have to spend all her weekends in Stevenage, bless her.
But Tony's always been a worrier, never a guy who can sit back with a glass of rose, a packet of Pringles and the latest Jeanette Winterson and breathe a sigh of relief that at long last, in the words of the

long last, in the words of the late, great Bob Marley, "ev-erything's gonna be all right", In fact, as he said to Sue last week, you'll never catch Tony putting Free's All Right Now on the hi-fi when there's Wishing Well within reach—but that's the guy's character and I for one respect him for

What's come to be known as Tony's Inner Caucus — that's my own good self, Alastair Campbell, Jack Straw and Tony — have a twice-weekly Tony — have a twice-weekly Poll Meeting (we don't like to worry the lovely John Prescott — he's already doing such valuable work in the constituencies). In these meetings, Alastair reads out all the latest polls, and we adjust our policies and personalities accordingly. ities accordingly.

Lest week, the polls showed New Labour scoring slightly disappointingly with what one might term "the older woman". Tony said he'd been thinking for ages that we should give a high-profile role to an older woman — but

"Barbara Castle?" suggested Jack.
"Great!" said Alastair. "She's very popular with the older C2s. I can see it now — Queen of Romance Slams

Excuse me, Alastair," said Jack, "But you may be think-ing of Barbara Cartland." "That's the one — "The Crusader in Pink' — she's al-ready dressed for the part.

"They're very different."
"Not HER!" said Alestair,
witheringly. "Opinion this,
opinion that The woman's all

recently?" aaked Tony. "You never know, she may well still be an MP. Worth check-

ing."
"There's a woman just like her, collects the glasses down the Fox and Goose Tuesday evenings," said Alastair.
"Next time I'm in, I'll ask her if she's ever been Deputy Leader of the Labour Party. If she has, I'll check she's lost her opinions, then away we

And between ourselves that's when it all started to go when a when it all started to go wrong. At this week's meeting, Alastair arrived with his lady from the Fox and Goose and told us she'd accepted his offer of a job as Transport Spokesperson. We'd just finished congratulating her when a knock-knock as in when - knock-knock - in walks another Margaret Beckett, this one claiming she's the MP for Derby South But under Tony's closer cross-questioning, this one revealed that, though she was indeed the MP, she's still got more opinions than strictly

necessary.
So we thanked her kindly and sent her on her way with our very best wishes for the festive season. The next time you see Margaret Beckett on Newsnight, do please remember that it's not the one who used to hold forth on solidar-

ACK to the Opinion Polls. No sooner had we got the women's poll sorted out than Alastair produced another one, this time showing that the lovely David Blunkett and his dog are the two most popular members of New Labour among first-time voters, middle-class voters and undecideds. "It's the dog and undecideds. "It's the dog that does it." explained Alastair. "Of those polled, 72 per cent said they'd prefer Fortillo with a dog to Blunkett without the dog."

You know, Tony can be a very strong leader when he wants. He immediately took the matter in band, and told

the matter in hand, and told me to draw up a ten-point plan to supply all members of the Shadow Cabinet with household pets by the week-end. He himself would issue orders that the Shadow Cabinet should follow David Blunwith them wherever they go, and that he saw them as mandatory for any television appearance.
I'm happy to say the plan is

Let's give her Transport, and already proving a great sucthat Robin Cook's appearance BUT I was thinking Barbara Castile," said Jack. with his new goldfish, Barney, has sent his personal rating up a full six points, whilst Jack Straw has scored hugely among women voters opinions. We'll never win this election with opinions."

It was then I had my brainwave. "How's about Margaret Beckett?" I said. "She used to have opinions, but I'm pretty whe John Prescott appears on Overtion. Time with his sure she's stopped." on Question Time with his "Has anyone seen her Shetland Pony, Digger.



Half a century ago, a teenaged British soldier died in a tank in the arms of Tony Heath, who survived. The Government's thanks: it targets war pensioners to save a quick buck

Is this what he died for?

high on the Richter Scale of squalid meannesses which characterise John Major's last stand. The Prime Minister was two years and 26 days old when, on April 26. 25 days ont when I helped to crew was knocked out in the battle for Bremen. Peter Lilley and William Waldegrave, lead players in the final battle,

weren't even born then.
A comrade — yes, we didn't shrink from such terms then — died, his bloodstained body collapsing across me. The rest of us — four teenagers — escaped with what the medical officer later declared to be "minor wounds" as he pulled bits of metal from my left leg with a pair of forceps. My hearing suffered more. I have a small pension to prove it. Time passes. At intervals the nightmare returns. The hear-

ing deteriorates.

Step forward a Government whose members have barely

Gordon, Jones 99, Jones 49 forthizately, thinke the trimble the trimble the trimble of the freelance formalist ment organisation concerned. I trust and believe that freelance journalist

Sprawson, Mr Lilley's spear-carrier, proposes are de-signed to splif the ex-servicemen's organisations. It won't work. Major, Lilley, Walde-grave et al are watriors in a coldhearted campaign against men and women who helped to keep democracy safe. That's not a veteran's cliché — not if you've seen men die in battle, not if you've had to stand watch over the SS guards of Belsen.

This Government is deeply influenced by the Thatcherite mantra that there is no such thing as society. It is lucky for them that servicemen and women acted in ways contrary to such a pernicious doctrine. Edward Moulding, who died on the banks of the

HE Government's plan to "save" a few million by cutting war pensions rates high on the Richter "sweeteners" the brave ian high on the Richter "sweeteners" the brave ian chores like refuelling our cause universally deemed a society (sorry, Margaret content out to do the last two digits of their serial number), and Heath, serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction two digits of their serial number, and Heath, serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction to digits of their serial number, and Heath, serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction to digits of their serial number, and Heath, serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction to digits of their serial number, and Heath, serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction to digits of their serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction to digits of their serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction to digits of their serial number, and Heath, serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction to digits of their serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction to digits of their serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction to digits of their serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction to digits of their serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction to digits of their serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction to digits of their serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction to digits of their serial number, with veterans' affairs. Just to troy veterans like Sir Eduction to digits of their serial number.

chores like refuelling our tank at night, petrol slopping over your boots and praying no bullet would come your way. And cooking, And standing guard when there was a lull.

I see no such desire among ministers to act in a broader interest. Their sordid policy is simple; let's see how we can is simple: let's see how we can temporary grave. And I did

I don't know if John Major ever weeps . . . I did, all those years ago

raise enough money to bribe | again on VE Day 1995 at Beck-Worcester Woman and Essex | lingen war cemetery, where Man to vote for us. The thin- | he lies in Plot 6, Row G, Grave ing ranks of veterans and doctrine. Edward Moulding, organisations like the Royal who died on the banks of the British Legion and the score Weser all those years ago, was at one with the rest of us have a different agenda. Un-

No 12. A little humility in the corridors of power is in order as Huntingdon Man's dream of warm beer, women cycling to church and the thwack of Gordon, Jones 99, Jones 49 fortunately, unlike the United | willow on leather gives way

> chief moral or occupational characteristics. At-

Thatcher) being judged by the way it treats minorities. Vetersus are being added to lone parents, the unemployed and the socially deprived as targets for "savings". Teenagers in khaki circa 1945 shared more than danger and death. Cooperation and mutual support saw us through many an encounter, and no doubt that was said by teenagers in field grey as well. When I ponder the philosophy — if that's not too strong a word — behind the fire directed at veterans, I wonder what the old hands of my tank would say. I'm sure that if Edward Moulding rose from his lonely grave, he would say: "Away with this shabby ploy. This is not the Britain I died for."

west Europe at the end of the second world war. He is now a

character's name with his | Smeeth and a typist named

LEFT TO DIE "Cristina is six but has the body of a baby. Other little girls have the wrinkled faces of old women. Their matchstick limbs are covered in Tanya Barron on visiting Hincesti Orphanage Help End The Suffering of Moldova's

Forgotten Orphanage Children At Hincesti Orphanage filthy, starving children lie in rows waiting to die. Nearly 25% did last winter. Around 10,000 children are in

They eat slops and sleep under threadbare blankets. They have no bot water, no beeting, no medicine and up to now no hope. The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanisa Orphanage Trust, is working flat-out to get help through to the orphanages, starting with Hincesti.

Your gift today will save lives and bring hope

25 could buy emergency food supplements for two children to stop them dying from starvation.

• £50 could buy a medicine box containing autisoptic, antibiotics, vituains, pain killers and life-awing drugs to help treat five children. • £250 could buy beavers, blankets, food supple

and a medical pack to help save eight children.

C	all 0127.	3 2993	33 or c	ut the	coupon	n
I will give	6(Cheque	to The	Europe	an Child	

meaning we can help more ch	lidren at no extra cost to you.
Hr/Mrs/Miss	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Address	

(250 becomes (310 through the Government's Gift Aid Scheme

		 -
Postcode	Tel No	
I will give by Access/Visa/CAF Car	rd	
Signature	Date	
Regulars to: Tanya Barron, MOLDOVA AP	PEAL (GI).	 The Europe

Please act now - winter is coming

Step forward Marvel Crumpacker DJ Taylor salutes the heroine of Eurostar. | names in fiction is long

a woman with a name beyond fiction

newspapers, earned her place in history by daring to be one of the few people place in history by daring to be one of the few people to travel on the newly reopened Euroctar Express; she is also living proof of the most heffine of all needs to travel on the part heffine of all needs to travel on the part heffine of all needs to travel on the most heffine of all needs to travel on the part heffine of all needs to travel on the part heffine of all needs to travel on the part heffine of all needs to travel on the part heffine of all needs to travel on the part heffine of the part the most baffling of all aesthe most baffling of an area that morning's Times birth thetic proscriptions — the inability of any creative writer to invent a name half as wonderful as those half as wonderful as those half as wonderful as those fitty would be denounced for rank implausibility. possessed by real people.
Names are a longstanding

STEP forward Marvel Crumpacker into your new role as icon. Not only has Ms Crumpacker of Fort Wayne, Indiana, whose picture appeared in so many of yesterday's newspapers. earned her overlist's dilemma. Ideally one wants something unusual but not positively absurd (Anthony Powell achieves a good balance in Nick Jenkins's recitation of his school list in A Dance To the Music Of Time: Fettiextraordinary patronyms in that morning's Times birth The great age of bizarre

Meredith's elegant baronet Sir Willoughby Pattern have few descendants. The highpoint seems to have been reached in about 1860 dominated, inevitably, by Dickens (the Veneer-ings, Sir Tumley Snuffim, Sir Barnet Skettles, Mr Pumblechook, hundreds more), but with strong performances by Thackeray valet, predatory Captain
Rook) and Trollope (Senator Gotobed, Lord Earlybird). As the Trollope examples demonstrate, the Victorians could some

tourneys in 19th-century novels tend to be called Slow & Bideawhile and doctors Slasher or Filgrave. The moneylender in Trolser Trunnion, Smollett's retired commodore, and lope's The Three Clerks is a certain Jabez M'Ruin and the lawyer who tries to keep tabs on slippery Lizzie Eustace in The Eustace Diamonds is Mr Camperdown (ie Clampherdown). THE most resonant and

apposite names in Vic-torian fiction — Dickens's swindler Merdle or Trollope's irresolute Irish peer Lord Fawn — have a

amples demonstrate, the Victorians could sometimes over-egg the pudding when it came to investing a

Poppy Sellers, was a fair attempt, along with Evelyn Waugh's Sir Alistair Digby-Vane-Trumpington and Powell's Sir Horrocks
Rusby QC. More recently
the flag has been kept aloft
by Iris Murdoch, whose
books come sprinkled with
characters called Tuan and
Marzillian. If the heroine Marzillian. If the heroine of the Eurostar Express has a fictional niche, it's probably in one of David Lodge's international academic romps along with Maurice and Desiree Zapp, but you can imagine the snifts of critical disbelief that would greet her appear-ance in a modern novel.

Flesh and blood she may be, but Ms Crumpacker be-longs back there in the Victorian golden age along with the Reverend Quiverful, Captain Glanders and the Honourable Mr



Vassall . . . a name synonymous with homosexuality and treason

John Vassall

Fall guy in a spy trap

who has died at the age of 72, gave his name to a spy scan-dal which caused security services and to the Macmillan government. A prelude to the Profumo affair, it contributed to a growing impression of establishment incompetence and complacency which was to lead in 1964 to the end of 13 years of

To many, his name also became synoymous with homosexuality and made homosexuality synoymous with treason, before the liberating 1960s took hold.

Vassall, the victim of a classic KGB entrapment when he was attached as an Admiralty clerk to the British embassy in Moscow, was vain, hu-mourless, self-regarding and naive — a "perfect fall guy", as he was later to admit.

He was a lonely product of a respectable background. His father was chaplain of St Bartholomew's Hospital in Lon-don, where his mother was a nurse and where he was born. Devotion to his mother led him to become a Catholic he was later confirmed by Brian Heenan, then Arch-bishop of Westminster, in Wormwood Scrubs. He was educated at Littlehampton, where, so he said, he had his where, so he said, he had his first homosexual experience at the age of 12. He went on to Monmouth School, where he engaged in further homosexual activities with older boys. He joined the RAF in the world war and was employed as a photographer. He then joined the Admiralty

OHN VASSALL, who has died at the age of 72, gave his name to a spy scandal which caused mbarrassment to the services and to the agovernment. A to the Profumo affair, buted to a growing of the plained later, "obviously nuted to a growing of the plained later, "obviously nuted to a growing of the plained later, "obviously nuted to a growing of the plained later, "obviously nuted to a growing of the plained later, "obviously nuted to a growing of the plained later, "obviously nuted to a growing of the plained later, "obviously nuted to a growing of the plained later, "obviously nuted to a growing of the plained later, "obviously nuted to a growing of the plained later, "obviously nuted to a growing of the plained later, "obviously nuted to a growing of the plained later, "obviously nuted to a growing of the cIA, said that in Moscow the had seen classified Admitically he had seen cl

a Russian friend took him to a flat, where he was photographed with three other men in a bed. Shortly after, in March 1954, he met a Russian KGB officer, an agent provocatear, and promptly went to bed with him. A group of KGB officers broke into the room, presented him with photographs, and threatened to publish them unless he agreed to "heip".

He described in his 1975

autobiography how at the ap-pointed time he was shown a box of photographs: "... after about three photographs, I could not stomach any more. They made me feel ill. There I was, caught by the camera, enjoying every sexual activity ... having oral, anal or a complicated array of sexual activities with a number of

different men." He began to supply a steady stream of documents to his new controllers. Before his return to Britain in 1957, Vassall was given a Minox cam-era designed to fit inside a cigarette packet. Nikolai Borisovich Rodin, a KGB resident in London who also ran the double agent George Blake, was appointed to con-

Vassall and "Gregory", Ro- around Vassall. Anatoli Golitthat an obvious homosexual din's code-name, met every sin, the 1961 KGB defector to (at least to some) should have

manent loomote in history. Roan underground station.

He was posted to the Moscow The increasingly solitary Vasembassy in 1953, at the age of 29. He shared a flat with a fellow homosexual and soon met a Russian, who, he explained later, "obviously found me attractive".

He was a hlatantly obvious target. One night after dinner, a Russian friend took him to a during his interrogation. during his interrogation following his arrest.

For five years, he supplied the Russians with classified naval documents, including some relating to Nato policy and new weapons systems. Worried about the Portland spy ring affair, which led to

caught by the camera, enjoying every sexual activity . . . with a number of men'

There I was.

the arrest of Harry Houghton in 1961, the Russians briefly laid off, though they were soon to resume contact.

The security services' blindness about his lifestyle
— he lived in a flat in exclusive Dolphin Square close to Westminster, spending about £3,000 a year when he earned just £750 — was echoed by the CIA in recent scandals, no-Yet the net was closing security services. "The fact around Vassall Anatoli Golittatian obvious homosexual

rant and asked me to accom-pany them to a car waiting by the statue of Captain Cook . . . For hours I poured out what had been bottled up in my mind for years . . As dawn approached I signed the document that had been prepared and lay back with my head resting on the large green leather armchair, feeling that I had at last got all this out of

my system."

Vassall was jailed for 18 years, and released on parole in 1972. He said in his autobiography, written in a Catholic monastery, that the naval at-tache in Moscow had warned tache in Moscow had warned him he was moving in circles "too high" for him, a remark he found "frightful and inhuman". The British ambassador. Sir William Hayter, was "cool and aloof". In the end he blamed the British security sarriage "The feat

been appointed to Moscow and allowed to remain there is a severe indictment of our is a severe indictment of our security services," he wrote. He asked why Fuchs, the atom spy, was jalled for 14 years, while he, "a pygmy of a spy", got 18 years. He also pointed to Anthony Blunt, the KGB agent who was knighted and confessed only after impurity from prosecution. e di ministri di mania di mani

Moscow".

Vassall was arrested in September 1962. He described the day in an extract from his autobiography included in the Faber Book of Treachery: "In spite of my premonitions, it was a complete surprise when, as I left the north-west door of the Admiralty in the Mall and went to cross the road, two men in mackintoshes came forward Third Man style, flashed me a warrant and asked me to accompany them to a car waiting by any them to a car waiting the case donly after immunity from prosecution.

Unsubstantiated rumours surrounding the case forced Tom Galbraith, a junior minister in the Admiralty for whom Vassall worked after his return from Moscow, to resign. A tribunal of inquiry, under Lord Radeling and confessed only after immunity from prosecution.

Unsubstantiated rumours surrounding the case forced Tom Galbraith, a junior minister in the Admiralty for whom Vassall worked after his return from Moscow, to resign. A tribunal of inquiry, under Lord Radeliffe, into the case forced Tom Galbraithe and confessed only after immunity from prosecution.

Unsubstantiated rumours surrounding the case forced Tom Galbraithe, a junior minister in the Admiralty for whom Vassall worked after his return from Moscow, to resign. A scandai concluded that Vas-sall's appointment to Moscow was a "decisive mistake" but said there was "nothing im-proper" in his relationship with Galbraith, who later was given a more santan near lagiven a more senior post in the Macmillan government. Vassali changed his name

to John Phillips, living quietly in St John's Wood, north-west London, working first as a researcher in the City, later for local archivists. He was once said he wanted to be a butler. He was be-friended by Humphry Berke-ley, a Tory MP who later switched to Labour, and a ploneering reformer of the aw on homosexuality. In an interview at the time of the publication of his autobiography, he claimed that he slept with two Tory MPs, one since elevated to the Lords.

Richard Norton-Taylor

John Vassall, spy and civil servant; born September 20, 1924; died November 18, 1996

Penelope Jessel

Liberal women's fighter

PENELOPE JESSEL, who has died aged 76, was one of a generation of Liberals whose contribution to political life and thought was made outside Parliament. Penelope was one of five children of the bookseller Sir Basil Blackwell. She attended Oxford's all-boys Dragon that a sister could join a brother already in the school. From there she went on to St Leonard's School and St Andrew's, and then read classics at Somerville College, Oxford. Said to be the most beauti-

she married one of the cleverest men. Robert Jessel, later defence correspondent of the Times. He died of leukaemia, leaving her with two young sons and her living to earn: she then studied at the London School of Economics and became a lecturer at Plater. one of the mature student col-

leges in Oxford. Nancy (now Baroness) Seear was one of Penelope's LSE tutors and with her en-couragement Penelope became a Liberal parliamentary candidate and fought five general elections and one by-election. She was committed to advancing the cause of women and in the 1970s. as Women's Liberal Federation. she sought out and encouraged women to stand for

On retiring from fighting elections, and from Plater, she became the Liberal Party's volunteer internationa officer. She charmed diplomats and Liberals from many countries who visited party headquarters, but also raised with them awkward ques-



tions. She was not by nature confrontational, although she did join the 1975 women's demonstration outside the National Liberal Club demanding full membership battle won. Penelope was briefly a

member of West Oxfordshire district council and a tireless supporter of the Oxford Civic Society. She cared passion-ately that surroundings should raise, not depress, the spirits. In the last few years she beloed to set up and run the John Stuart Mill Institute, a Liberal think-tank producing papers and sponsoring lectures in an effort to raise the standard of political debate. A couple of days before she died at home she was discussing future projects for

the institute. Penelope inspired deep affection and will be missed not only by her sons and their families but also by hundreds of friends and students. One former student returned from Spain to nurse her when she She was made a DBE in

1987 for services to the Liberal Party: "There's nothing like a dame," sang her friends. There really wasn't.

activist, born January 2, 1920; dled December 2, 1996

Ruler with Soviet strings attached

who has died of liver cancer in Moscow at stalled as leader of Afghanistan when Soviet troops invaded the country in December 1979. He was removed no more gloriously Mikhail Gorbachev reversed policy and decided that the on was no longer worth

years in which Babrak — as he was universally known — never could shake off his the standards of earlier shifts in Soviet policy towards the countries they controlled, his departure was a soft landing and he was given asylum in the country to which his career had tied him.

Babrak was one of the founder members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, which soon became the country's most effective party, determined to modernise a notoriously backward society with the aid of a communist programme. Bab-rak headed the PDPA's more moderate wing, known as Parcham or Flag, which, although it intended to monopolise power for the party, thought the revolution should take a gradualist approach.

As long as the party was still aiming for power, its internal solits were not significant but when it overthrew resident Mohammad Daoud in April 1978 the Babrak wing sension in the leadership led to Babrak being sent as ambassador to Czechoslovakia while the radicals, first under Nur Mohammad Taraki and later under Hafizullah Amin, imposed a harsh form of rule. insisting on rural women abandoning the veil and try-ing to push through a sweep-



As armed resistance mounted, helped by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Soviet politburo under Leonid topple the radicals and occupy the country. A KGB group stormed Amin's headquarter and killed him, while Bahrak was flown into Kabul on a

Soviet aircraft. In power he tried to project a softer image and for several weeks western reporters were able to stay in the country. But he could never shake off the circumstances of his arrival and most Afghans despised him. In 1985 power in the Kremlin shifted and long before Mikhail Gorbachev

thought of liberalising in east-ern Europe it was clear that the new Soviet leadership did Summoned to Moscow in not wish to sustain an unpopular war in their most un-ruly satellite.

Bahrak went along with the change reluctantly. In what turned out to be his last interview with a foreign news-paper, he told the Guardian in February 1986 that a Soviet withdrawal need not take more than a year and that Afghans would be able to run their own security. This was no doubt what the Russians had told him, though it became clear he did not believe it. When he tried to convince the Russians to delay the start

March 1986, as Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov's memoirs later revealed, he looked distraught when told the Russians wanted to go as soon as possible. He was told he would have to give up as party leader, though he could stay on as president as a face-saver. Officially it was an-nounced that he had resigned

month earlier he denied Soviet-planted rumours that he was ailing. Babrak did not agree to the terms of the Moscow bargain

because of ill-health, though in his Guardian interview a

post as president he continued to try to mobilise support within the PDPA against the Russians. Vladimir Kryuchkov, KGB deputy head, was sent to Kabul to tell him it was all over. Babrak told a Rus-sian interviewer later how the conversation went.

and for several months in his

Kryuchkov urged him to retire to the Soviet Union for medical treatment, but spiced be careful. Your enemies may kill you." The Afghan presi dent replied: "Only my friends can kill me now."

That was the end of his political career, although he still had vague hopes of influencing events after the Russians eventually withdrew. He returned briefly to Afghanistan in 1991 but was not accepted by his successor, Mohammad Najibullah. He was lucky to have left the country before the Mojahedin took over in 1992.

Babrak was always more of an ideologue than Najibullah He saw communism as a doctrine of international liberation and had little truck with the radicals or the nationalists around him. He was not as skilful as Najibullah in play-ing the ethnic card and keeping a balance between Afghan-istan's different peoples. He was an archetypal product of the urban, educated middleclass of Kabul, but only a minority was as secular and committed to communism as

He had been in failing health for the past year and died on Sunday at the Kremlin hospital in Moscow. But word of his death did not become public until Russian news agencies reported it yesterday

Jonathan Steele Babrak Karmal, politician, bor 1929; died December 1, 1996 Birthdays

Lord (Jack) Ashley, cam-paigner for the disabled, 74; Bill Ashton, founder-director, National Youth Jazz Orchestra, 60; Rt Rev Patrick Barry, Abbot of Ampleforth, 79; Dave Brubeck, jazz musician, 76; Air Marshal Sir John Curtiss, 72; Gordon Durle, footballer, 31; Wendy Ellis, ballerina, 45; Gerry Francis, football manager, 45; Francis, football manager, 45; Derek Hill, artist, 80; Mau-rice Rope, boxer, 45; Jona-than King, broadcaster, 53; Eileen Langsley, photogra-pher, 53; Helen Liddell, Labour MP, 46; Sir Richard Lloyd chairman Vickers 68; Lloyd, chairman, Vickers, 68; Sir Nicholes Lyell MP, Attorthe advice with the warning ney General, 58: Eric Newby, "Comrade Karmal, you should travel writer, 77: Prof Lord Porter of Luddenham, OM, FRS, chemist, 76; Keke Rosberg, motor-racing champion, 48: Alastair Ross Goobey, broadcaster, chief executive. Postel. 51; Prof Sir Bryan Thwaites, aeronautical engineer. 73; Charles Vance, actor, director and producer, 67; Cyril Washbrook, former cricketer, 82, Tony Woodcock, football coach, 40.

Death Notices

. . . .

Memorial Services

Birthdays

To place your announcement to 0171 713 4567, Fax 0171 713 4129.

Jackdaw



Unforgettable

THIS is how my memory works...Without warning or son. I was in a room in Gaylords Hotel in Madrid. It was winter, late 1937, at a

guess . . . E. [Ernest Hemingway] suddenly appeared beside us wearing an ugly, shark smile, the first time I had seen it. He addressed Modesto as "Mi General", already offensive. the style in the old monarchist army. He suggested they hold in their teeth the opposite ends of his bandana handkerchief, now pulled from his pocket, and settle this matter by playing Russian roulette since they were now among

bullet in each chamber. It was an amusing game, either two men died, or one, or neither. As a boor's joke it was outstanding, it managed a double insult, to me as a piece of female property, to Modesto as a thief on the prowl. My heart's desire was to kick E. power-fully, but I do not know how to kick people. Modesto did not ee it as a joke, boorish or otherwise. His eyes went cold. He said: "Vamos."

As they could hardly shoot each other among the lamps and tables and sofas, Modesto headed for the outer door, E. following. Supposedly they would pick up revolvers along the way. It was too idiotic and shaming, a fine example of E.'s gift for making scenes. Koltzov must have sensed a quarrel because he took Molesto's arm, talking fast with irritation. The words tonteria", "absurdo"... flicked about. He led Modesto still talking, to a far corner of the room. E. had spoiled this party, which promised to be so agreeable, so comfortable in a warm room, and with

plenty of delicious food for

me. The motherly woman ushered us politely but firmly to our coats and through the entry passage into the hotel corridor. We were not invited again. Mortha Gellhorn writes about

London Review of Books.

her unstructured memories in

Own goal IN YOUR enthusiasm to impress your woman with your sporting prowess, tell her what a brilliant footballer you are. So brilliant that you once played professionally. You were only a teenager, mind, but you had your moment of glory. Which was, naturally, big. Very big. So big it is the winning goal in the 1978 Cup Final. Here is where you clev erly blend fact and fiction. Firstly, make sure you stress you were the youngest-ever scorer in the Final: you were only 15 years and four months old . . . Secondly put across that this was the beginning and the end for you: you made only four more starts for Inswich Town after being taken off with concussion in their 1-0 win over Arsenal Hard

times forced you to sell your winner's medal, and now all you have is your one big nemory.

Danger of discovery: 10 out of 10. Even though women know nothing about football, she will check up with her dad and he will say: "Is his name Roger Osborne?" You're

Twelfth on FHM mag's list of 15 lies meant to impress women. Poor boys: lads have never im-

Snake tales

PSYCHOLOGY Today (PT): How old are these stories [in the biblical book of Genesis? Stephen Mitchell (SM, biblical translator): Nobody really knows. They were composed by a number of different writers. Many are much older than the date they were writ-ten down, because for centuries they were preserved orally. Some of them parallel stories from other cultures that appeared thousands of years earlier . . . PT: Some are very disturbing. SM: Even the greatest stories of Homer don't plumb the

same depths as the weird and dark stories of Genesis. Yet they're marvellous because they're like mirrors. Take the story of Adam and Eve and the serpent. When I read this aloud to a group of people, I can almost see flames coming out of women's ears when Eve eats the apple and Adam lenounces her. It's really a very dangerous little story -

like a Kafka parable — where men blame women for the all miseries of humanity . . . PT: What's really going on? SM: The story is much more complex. The serpent is a symbol of wisdom in many cultures, because it sheds its skin and thus is born again . . . So it's interesting that the antagonist in the story takes the form of a serpent and that the serpent tells the truth. Then you have a God who plants a forbidden tree right in the middle of the garden . . . and he says: "If you eat from this tree, you'll die." But that's a lie. Adam and Eve don't die. PT: So God is bullshitting.

SM: He's not telling the truth

... People have been trying to

rationalise God's lies for thousands of years.

Psychology Today inter-

Reservations

nome-boys with their 'straight up" gangster identity, reservation boys allying themselves with Phoenix and Chicago and the Bronx. Paying tribute to the world, an admiring overture. Gang colours as the perfect travelling clothes. People always



Vibe . . . tribal fare

I REMEMBER Harmon's



complaining to Harmon, why don't you rap in Navajo? But it's almost 2000 and the Indian's wearing gang colors like the Invisible Man wore bandages — See me now? A ques-tion asked with hope, love

and rage. Hey LA! Whassup Chicago! ...
"Is this what Indians eat?"
"Is the what Indians eat?" A white woman sitting at the Navajo Nation Inn holds up a wad of fried bread and asks the waitress. Harmon, Pop-Tart and I are at the next table. "I'm Indian," Harmon mutters darkly. "And I'm eat-

ing a fucking burrito." We fly, tires spinning. dark-eyed car, speakers slamming. Harmon at the wheel, Pop-Tart in the back seat. Once we almost hit a rabbit, It shoots into our headlights, my breath's a scream, the

Rap blasts out of the speakers. "I'm not a thief/ I'm the chief/ one hundred per cent beef. . "It could be blasting out of any car anywhere — Chicago, Phoenix, east LA. The country's old and strange but so the fuck what? The young Navajos speed over the land in a dark-eyed

car, scattering jackrabbits. speakers pulsing: "Bang bang to the brain. It's another native tongue." As cold as history, as tough and un-

sentimental.
Up ahead, a car's tilted off
the road and a man in a widesleeve shirt waves his arms. No way Harmon and Pop-Tart are stoppin' for that. Some-body they know picked up a hitchhiker on these roads; he turned out to be a guy who everyone knew had been dead for years. They shoot right past him, churning clouds — dust to the dusty — and barrel on to the freeway living, breathing HUNGRY Indians. What do Indians eat? They eat fucking burritos. Current misconceptions of Native Americans as New Age saints are corrected by Kathryn Dobie's reporting from Arizona's tribal gang culture for

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Finance Guardian



Richard Giordano flanked at yesterday's christening by chief executive designates David Varney, of Centrica, and Ray Gardner, of BG pic

Kipper Williams

British Gas prize up for grabs in take-or-pay talks ● Break-up into Centrica and BG plc by February

Morecambe Bay rush is on

day made clear that it was pre-pared to trade all UK production asset, the Morecambe Bay gas fields, to rid itself of crippling take-or-

merge its pipeline and trac-ing businesses, and disclosed ing speculation that this by assets.

The first public could be taken in talks by assets.

British Gas prepared the deals to sort out a legacy of uneconomic, long-term gas supply contracts. British Gas will pay £293 million to alter contracts with British Petro leum and with its own trad-

ing arm.
The Gas Consumers' Counany benefits would be shared with customers. Sue Slipman, the director, said: "Consumers must be seen to benefit from the renegotiation or BG risks alienating large num-bers of customers on the eve of the introduction of gas

competition."
British Gas named the two separate companies which will result from a demerge expected to be completed by February 17. The supply busi-ness will join the Morecambe Bay fields in Centrica, while the Transco pipelines busi-

other two take-or-pay deals to be pushed through by Febru-ary and sees Mobil as the next oil company likely to com-plete renegotiation. Many ob-servers believe this could be a more significant deal than that with BP.

with Shell.

centrica

☐ Commisse of sales to homes and business premises, servicing, retailing of appliances. she Bay cae field, and a 51 per cent stake in a

T 1995 harrowen £7,527 billion

1995 post-lax profits £119 million 5 5tall: 22,000 people

company detailed plans to demerge its pipeline and trading businesses. and disclosed

BG chairman Richard Glor-

BG plc

British Gas is paying \$293 million in the first take-or-

pay settlement, to take less gas at more competitive rates. With BG keeping details of the deal secret, there was

payable to BP alone could be

as much as £246 million.

Some observers were suggest-ing that eventually the cash

ground for the Centrics de-merger last February when it

healisteese, TransCo dealise and ransmission compan Bos artibly to mean

1955 tamover: ☐ 1995 post-tax profits C391 million ☐ Staft: 22,000 pages

ploration and production needed to stay an undiluted its former chief executive, Cearms will collect under the part of British Gas for now drie Brown.

but that there were already It has been hinting for sev-

eral months that the deal could be completed by next February, but yesterday made clear that enough legal groundwork had been done to

meet the timetable.
The chief executives of the new companies, David Var-ney at BG plc and Roy Gard-ner at Centrica, announced a metes of non-executive directorships to their boards. Among those joining Cen-trice are Patricla Mann, in-

ternational vice president of J Walter Thompson and a for-mer member of the Gas Conannounced the departure of sumers' Council, Heather Rabbatts, chief executive of the London Borough of Lam-beth, and Bill Cockburn, head of WH Smith and former chief executive of the Post Office. The former M15 chief, Dame Stella Rimmington, joins the non-executive team at BG plc. Mr Glordano reversed a pledge to quit British Gas

shortly after the demerger. He will be chairman of Cenremain as chairman of BG pic indefinitely. He said that he was determined to proceed as possible to prepare for full market after 1998. "There is unburdened by each other, will be managed more effec-tively for that."

What's in a name?

Chris Barrie on the costly art of the corporate

A drica," said one City analyst contemplating British Gas's decision to recust and referring to retired chief executive Cedric Brown. "It should be Ec-centrics," said another

observer. Changing names is easier than changing reputations.
British Gas is following in
the footsteps of Rover (BL,
British Leyland), Sellafield (Windscale) and United Utilities (Norweb and North West Water) to name

just three examples.

British Gas said its names reflected the new identities of the demerged

Centrica characterised a "dynamic company operating in a fast moving and overseas and Centrica at

makeover

changing market". As : brand name it had a "futur istic sound" symbolisins "dynamism, energy and progress." Notqualities al-ways associated with Brit-Meanwhile, BG expressed

an identity that was "simple and easily applied". It retained a link with the past while lending a "distinctive new characcompanies. Developed by a consultancy called Inter-brand, the image revemp ter" to the company. tle difference. Both BG and cost £250,000. Centrica will use the Brit-

Customers may notice lit-

ish Gas' brand name - BG

Notebook

The day sterling bear woke up



Edited by Mark Milner

V spect to its member MPs, Eddie George was no doubt hoping to reach a wider audience than the Treasury select committee in careful testimony relating to his view of UK interest rates. Not that the Bank of Eng-land governor was backing away from the prospect of dearer borrowing. As he told the committee, higher base-rates will improve Britain's Kenneth Clarke's inflation

target of 2.5 per cent.
But his message — reinforced by evidence from the latest CBI anapshot of the high street — that he saw no urgent need for a dramatic step were not what the foreign

step was not what the foreign exchange market had been expecting to hear.

Mr George's remark clipped two plennings off the pound's value against the German mark and by the end German mark and by the end of the day, sterling had fallen around four plennigs. It is now 12 plennigs below the four-year high clocked up earlier this week.

The covernor looks as if he

The governor looks as if he is having to walk a rather tricky line. Starling had been roaring shead on expectations of higher rates. The governor would like to see rates higher too, albeit modestly so. In the present simosphere, however, such a policy response would risk reinforcing market expectations, pushing the pound even higher. That would scarcely help Britain's exporters. They are

already muttering about the impact of sterling's 15 per cent surge since the late sum-mer on their earnings. Yesterday, it was the turn of Grand-Met to join the pound

Mr George seems to have squeezed out at least some of the base-rate anticipation from the market. As one trader said of the speculators, in characteristically robust terms: "They've been prodding the sterling bear with a stick, and it's finally wokan up and taken their arm off."

The crucial judgement,
however, will be deciding
when the market has given up hope of an increase in base rates, because that will be the point at which Mr George will be able to push for one. Whether Mr Clarke will listen

is another matter. New Hanson-spun

ORD Hanson, in his valedictory announcement
yesterday of his group's
year-end figures, spoke glowingly of "excellent, record
resulte"

Well, up to a point, Lord Hanson. It is true the £1.8 billion pre-tax profit was higher than ever before, but a

headline numbers suggests "excellent" is scarcely the most apposite description. The comparisons are hor-ribly muddled by acquisitions such as Eastern Electricity, and the demerger process, which is breaking up the em-pire that was constructed by Hanson and his former part

ner, Lord White. What is clear is that the re-cord £1.8 billion owed a great deal to profits on the dis-posals of the Cavenham forestry company and Surburban Propane. Excluding those exceptional profits, Lord Hanson had to report a dip in after tax profits below the £1 billion mark, and a slight fall

in earnings per share. Look, too, at "New Hanson", as the rump of the Hanson empire is tagged Of its five businesses, three saw profits fall last year. On a roughly comparable basis, its combined profits fell by £20 million, despite a 16 per cent increase in sales and — even more damningly in the eyes

– capital employed. New Hanson promises higher capital investment and diversification outside the US ways reckoned a key indica-tor of a vulnerable company was capital spending in ex-cess of depreciation, must be turning in his grave.

Clear and present

CCORDING to Colette Bowe, the chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, her organisation is not a self-regulatory organisation but, like it or not — and Ms Bowe does not like it — it is stuck with the label. The idea that supervision of the market in retail financical services is carried out by a self-regulatory body is, she says, a fiction which

Bowe thinks it does. She he lieves there is a need to strengthen the perceived pub-lic accountability of the regu-lator in the retail area of the industry by strengthening the links with government and Parliament She would like to see a designated agency with a public-interest board ap-pointed by the government of

the day.
A couple of points. Ms Bowe says she is speaking only about regulation to protect the private investor. She is clear that practioner involve ment — a key part of self regulation — should remain, though on what seems to be the basis of technical advice, not supervisory control. That is fair enough. But im-plicit in the downgrading of

the practioner role is a shift towards a rules-based rather than a judgement-based regulatory system.
It is one thing for non-prac

tioners, with the support of expert advice, to enforce a set of rules. It is quite another to expect them to make judge-ments which would have taxed Solomon.

That may be no bad thing. A judgement-based system may be more flexible, but a regime based on a public-interest organisation operating a clear set of rules should be brief glimpse behind the more transparent.

Ofwat applies plunger as water complaints gush dependent research revealed that average bills have are to hold talks with Mr drinking water with 99.5 companies and their regursien by nearly 42 per cent Byatt about their plans to per cent of water tested lator are falling the public Water complaints

Cella Weston Industrial Correspondent

ATER companies came under attack again yesterday after the industry regulator, Ofwat, published figures showing a doubling of interruptions to water supply, an increase in complaints from customers and wide regional variations in

The report on the 10 regional water and sewerage companies and 18 water supply companies measures performance against a range of criteria. It comes the day after inin the seven years since the water companies were privatised.

lan Byatt, director-general of Ofwat, said not all companies had improved their services, leading to a slower overall improve-ment than in previous years. The dry summer of 1995

and the freeze at the begin ning of this year had af-fected performance, lead-ing to more interruptions to supply and a rise in customer complaints, he said. Companies whose perfor-

The Ofwat report shows that the number of people writing with complaints in-creased last year by almost 10 per cent, from 156,000 in 1994-96 to 171,000 in 1995-There was also a doubling

to 130,206 in the number of unplanned and prolonged interruptions of water supply for 12 hours or more, and a more than doubling of the number of customers without a supply for 24 But Ofwat did report some improvements, in son said the report was beginning of the year.

meeting the required stan-dard, compared with 98.7 per cent in 1992. Responses to bill queries, too, showed that 90 per cent were answered within five days and written complaints within

Coxiomers are entitled to guaranteed standards of service laid down by the Government. If a company fails to meet any of the guaranteed standards, cus-tomers are entitled to a compensation payment. ures from the drinking watnormally £10. But Labour's Helen Jack-

year on year. Ofwat's own figures show that last year more than six out of 10 people (61 per cent) were not satisfied with the regulator's handling of cus-tomer complaints." Nor were the water com-

panies going to meet tar-gets to cut leakage from the system, through which a third of all the water was lost, she said. previously unrel er inspectorate of 81 cases of serious pollution since the

170000 150000 130000 🙏 🖽 🖄 90000

Hanson share price 'too low' Financial services needs overhaul

Roger Cowe

ORD Hanson, who rode conglomerate, yesterday hit out at the market's valuation

ing. Lord Hanson said: "The performance of the share price is of over-riding importance to all shareholders and has been very disappointing.

stands at 150p.

Despite £300 million of ac nersto

This in no way represents quisitions during the year, year.

either our earning capacity or | profits of "New Hanson", at luture prospects.'

Chief executive Derek Bon-ham predicted that the stock the 1980s stock market market's view would change boom to create his huge glomerate, yesterday hit at the market's valuation the share price of US Industries, at the market's valuation of subsideration of subs of the group as it splits up.
Presenting his last set of results as chairman before dense and his own retire loated on the US stock ex-

Lord Hanson was able to trumpet a record result thanks to profits on the disposals which set the demerger process running. But The combined value of miserable conditions in the Hanson and the demerged UK building industry left the companies was 195p on De- rump of the group behind the cember 1 1995, and now previous year's performance.

£231 million, were 3 per cent lower than last year. ARC suf-fered from the worst aggregates market for 20 years and saw profits fall by almost a fifth. Hanson Brick was hit even harder, seeing profits fall from £38 million to £27 million after the addition

of £9 million from the French

acquisition, Desimpel. Of the

UK businesses, only Hanson electrical managed to hold profits steady. The US companies fared better. The crane operation, Grove Worldwide, pushed up profit by half to £48 million, with the aid of acquisitions and strong markets. And the US aggregates company, Cor-

Richard Miles

SWEEPING overhaul of A regulation in the finan-cial services industry is urgently needed to restore confidence among private investors, a senior financial regulator admitted yesterday. Colette Bowe, chief execu tive of the Personal Investment Authority, told dele gates at an insurance conference that self-regulation no longer delivered the level of

protection expected by inves-Instead. Ms Bowe advocated the creation of a desig-nated agency that would be accountable to Parliament. This would replace the PIA. Labour Party — would be sands of investors, including the self-regulatory organisa controlled by a board peopled miners, nurses and teachers.

tion formed two years ago to j entirely by public-interest police the sellers of life insur-

ance, pensions and invest-ment funds. Speaking to executives in an industry beset in recent years by scandals, Ms Bowe said the investing public was "no longer satisfied" with the current system of self-regulation, which was in fact "more apparent than real".
"Self-regulation is a con-

cept that, frankly, we are stuck with, because it is enshrined in a piece of legislation. The idea that the regula-tion of the retail marketplace

directors. A series of committees would allow industry practitioners to make their views

known to the regulator. .

Creation of the agency would also remove insurance companies' right to choose their regulator. Prudential, the largest life insurer in Britain, has refused to join the PIA, preferring to be policed by the chief regulator, the Securities and Invest-

ments Board. Consumer confidence in the financial services industry has been badly dented by a is carried out by a self-regula-tory body is fiction," she said.

The designated agency — a notion also favoured by the Labour Party — would be sands of investors, including

Pacific island two walk free

Dan Atkinson

COTLAND Yard yester-day freed two people ar-rested in connection with a \$100 million (262.5 million) attempt to bankrupt the Pacific state of Vanuatu. The Guardian understands the Crown would have had difficulties mounting a prosecu-

tion here. The man, aged 47, and woman, aged 41 — arrested in July — surrendered to police bail yesterday at Fraud Squad headquarters in central London. They were told no fur-ther action was planned. "As far as we are concerned, our involvement . . . is at an end," said a Yard spokesman.

Britain last week returned the 10 "promissory notes" to

Marie-Noelle Ferrieux Patter son, said the country can "breath ... [a] huge sigh of relief".

Meanwhile, the trial of the tant Peter Swanson - opens in Vanuato on December 10 The Guardian understands that Mr Swanson may have been a front man for Ameri-

cans masterminding the

Vanuatu, removing the threat of bankruptcy from the tiny

state. Had they ever been

traded on international markets, they would have crippled Vanuati; valued at

£65 million, they represented five times the country's

Vanuatu ombudsman.

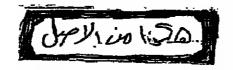
annual overseas earnings.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS Australia 2.008 Austria 17.54 Belgium 51.35 Ceneda 2.18 Cyprus 0.7500

Germany 2.4960 Greece 394.75 Hong Kong 12.42 India 58.88

itely 2,475 Matta 0.5805 Netherlands 2,8025 New Zestend 2,2780 Norway 10,45 Portugal 252,70 Settdi Arabia 6,14

Singapore 2.2575 South Africa 7.50 Spain 209.75 Swaden 11.01 Switzerland 2.10



George's words put pound in tailspin

HE Bank of England Governor, Eddie George, sent the pound into a tallspin yesterday after telling MPs he saw no need for a dramatic increase in interest rates to combat inflation.

mons Treasury committee, he said the Government had to keep on top of inflation and made it clear he would press for a rise in borrowing costs before the election.

But he dampened City expectations of a tightening of policy at next week's meeting with the Chancellor to discuss rates, saying the increase at the end of October had brought the authorities "I'm with the game".

that base rates were on the point of being raised from 6 per cent. fell by almost five pfennigs against the German mark yesterday, closing at just over DM2.51.

On Monday night, the pound climbed to DM2.63 — its highest level since the immediate aftermath of Black Wednesday in September 1992, but has been falling ever

Mr George said Britain was clearly in the midst of a do-mestically driven expansion. but the upswing was far less intense than the boom of the late 1980s.

The Governor added that he

If Mr Clarke followed the Sterling, underpinned in advice of two of his "wise per-recent weeks by the belief sons" and raised rates to 7 per

reducing inflation excluding mortgages to below 2.5 per cent in two years. Admitting that the recent

rise in the pound had caused problems for exporters, Mr George said that the Bank was aiming for a culture change so businesses and in-dividuals believed that the low inflation environment would not change. "We are not talking about the mindless pursuit of deflation. People accuse us of that but it is not what we are about."

He added: "I think we have made tremendous progress over the last few years. At the moment we have a strong pick-up in domestic demand. It poses the question of whether we have the bottle to see it through."

His softer stance on base

cent immediately, he would | Industry yesterday argue | comfortably hit his target of | that their latest snapshot of that their latest snapshot of the sector suggested no need According to the latest dis-tributive trades survey, retail sales volumes slowed in November. contrary to

The chairman of the CBI's Alastair Eperon, said: "Then rise on the basis of this sur-The CBI dismissed compar

isons with the boom years of the 1980s, arguing that competitively to win over cautious customers, supmodest price expectations the

Retail, wholesale and motor traders continue to take advantage of healthier demand to run down stocks, though

Sterling takes GrandMet toll

Lisa Backingham

RAND Metropolitan, the food and drinks 21 billion-a-year profits group which owns Burlesgue in 1997. ger King, Green Glant and Glibey's Gin, yesterday pre-dicted that this year's profits could be hit by £40 million if sterling remained at current

Chairman George Bull said he was "very concerned by the level of sterling" and criticised government policy which had resulted in "an un-

necessarily high pound.
But GrandMet, which increased profits for the year to September by 6 per cent to £965 million, said it has now managed to hedge about 90 per cent of its currency expo-sure, more than most City analysts had expected.

Nearly 70 per cent of the company's sales are in Amera, and these earnings diminish when they are converted into sterling at its current high levels against the dollar.

Even though the pound has now lost some of its recent gains against the greenback, Mr Bull said GrandMet falls between \$1.50 and \$1.60 European food businesses.

lan Trayner reports from Bonn on

workers over economic austerity

growing discontent among German

ERMANY'S trade un- | deputy union chief said the

ion movement attacked austerity drives and spending the government's ap-

proach to the single European many and across Europe in currency as unemployment the race to make the grade for

yesterday soared over four the single currency meant million.

Finance minister Theo Wai- ficed on the altar of monetary

gel is isolated among his union.
European Union partners in The Federal Labour Office

insisting on a rigorous "sta-bility pact" governing partici-month-on-month rise of 50,000

that band. The impact of the stronger pound could keep

Shares slipped by 9p to 447%p as the group's latest profits fell slightly short of the top expectations. But the group's food business, which Dazs and Old El Paso, performed better than most of its rivals and, after three years of stagnation, the IDV drinks operation — with brands such as J&B, Smirnoff and Baileys pushed operating profits

up by 4 per cent. The company's Burger King business suffered a £29 million reduction in profit to £167 million because of the impact in the UK and Germany of the BSE scare and a alowing in the rate of refran-chising outlets. The company said it would be only slightly affected by the introduction of a minimum wage, despite some notoriety for the pau-

city of its pay rates.

Mr Bull said GrandMet, which spent about £1.2 billion on target to sell its remaining

UK fights to keep inflation measure

EARS that the UK's official measure of in-flation could be forc-European Union countries emerged yesterday after criticism about American proposals to slash the counet a stroke. EU officials are already

running out of time to reach agreement on a pan-Community measure of in-Community measure of in-flation. This must be done by the end of this month so to be climbed on EMU." that inflation rates can be accurately compared in 1997 to determine which countries can join the proposed monetary union.
Although the Govern-

ment and the Bank of England acknowledge that the UK measure — the RPI — is flawed, officials boast that their practice of re-weighting the basket of monitored and becoming cheaper goods annually makes it every month." mong the world's best. Other EU states, includ-

The high and persistent job-less rate of almost 11 per cent

growth figures of 2.4 per cent

mainly due to strong export

performance. The two figures

appeared to confirm that Ger-many is settling into a pat-

tern of jobless growth despite

the government's pledge to cut unemployment over the

next three years. Ursula Engelen-Kefer, dep-

uty head of the Trades Union Confederation, warned of un-

rest in protest at the belt-

tightening necessitated by the dash to meet the single cur-

ing Germany, review their baskets much less frequently. An expert on consumer prices at the Office | in January.

German unions get tough on jobs

for National Statistics said: This is one of the big issues when we discuss haracross the EU. We are very proud of our system and we want to continue with it, but countries like Germany want us to come down to their level, which we are

refusing to do."
A member of the Govern ment's independent RPI ad-visory committee and UK economist at Nikko Bank Simon Briscoe, said: "This

The UK is determined to keep reviewing prices year because this avoids the kind of blas apparently seen in the US. Mr Briscoe said: "The ONS is undoubtedly trying to make progress on difficult issues, such as how to handle computers which are constantly developing

A spokeswoman for the ONS said statisticians will introduce personal computers to the basket of goods, on an experimental basis,

ting should not mean that you

take money out of the pockets of the little man. There is the

recipe for EMU, Ms Engelen-Kefer suggested emulating

special single currency tax. That is a proposal unlikely to

enjoy public support.
With special taxes raised to

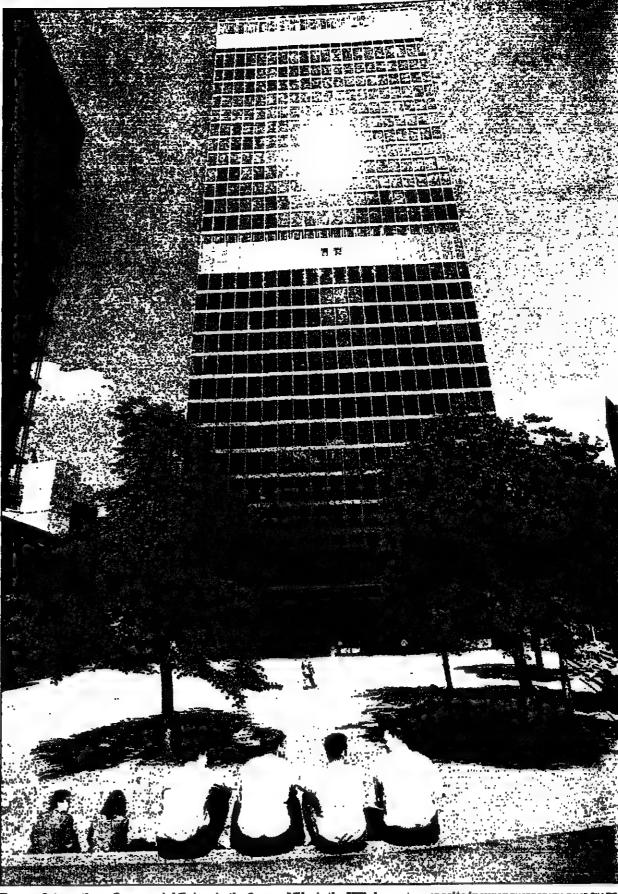
finance eastern Germany, the churches, and much else be-

sides, a single currency levy

could deal a fatal blow to pub-

lic acceptance of the already unpopular single currency in Germany.

risk of huge strikes." While arguing that social spending cuts were the wrong



Fower of strength . . . Commercial Union, in the Square Mile, is the UK's largest composite insurer photograph: david sklift

When a merger means that the market's machismo is assured

Bid fever is running high in the insurance business, say Pauline Springett and Paul Murphy. But who really profits?

certain to worsen in the months ahead as the winter need EMU. But it depends brings layoffs in construction with its shaped. The cost cut-D fever ran unabated among the UK's big in-surers yesterday, send-Share prices have been suping share prices soaring in this usually dozy sector.

The main trigger was the "on-off" deal between Com-mercial Union, the UK's biggest composite insurer, and BAT, the tobacco and financial services combine. The been in talks to merge its insurance interests — including Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar - with CU.

Although the deal appears to have hit a snag, traders were yesterday betting on BAT reactivating the plan within weeks. There was also speculation that BAT might focus on another company — General Accident was mentioned by several analysts as

The rumour mill has spurred widespread speculative activity in the insurance sector. Pick an insurer and there will almost certainly be a merger rumour attached to it. Current favourites include Generall of Italy.

ported by suggestions that Al-lianz of Germany might chal-lenge any agreed deal between BAT and Commer-cial Union with a hostile bid. "Unfortunately, size does matter," said Steven Bird, an The rumours have been fueled by some heavy buying by private Swiss investors suggesting to some in the market that Allianz's corporate plans have leaked.

There has been a spate of mergers in the past year — General Accident with Provident Mutual, Halifax with Clerical Medical and Royal with Sun Alliance are just three examples. The insurance sector, although still awash with players, is con-

solidating rapidly.

The deal frenzy is not confined to the UK. Only last month, France's top two in-surers, UAP and AXA, announced a merger to become Europe's biggest player. Analysts have noted that the worldwide industry is in-creasingly being dominated

as Nippon Life of Japan, AIG, Chubb and Prudential of the US. Allianz of Germany and

Big global insurers have the advantage over their smaller rivals of a stronger canital base and more power to negotiate rates with policyholders and with reinsurers when they lay off some of

analyst at Merril Lynch. There may be no obvious benefit to being bigger, but there is a macho aspect."

He explained that City merchant bankers, aware of the march of the global insurers. are putting pressure on UK companies to get in on the act. Unlike many other ana-

lysts, Mr Bird is sceptical

The top six

Largest LK composite insurers desection 1995 premium income:

2 Commercial Union 52.647 bn 3 General Accident 55.917 bn 5. Guardian 23,776 bn G-Eagle Star 228 bn

| by a few super-insurers, such | about whether the cost savings boasted by merging insurers actually materialise.
"Mergers provide a good excuse for hacking away at the expense base, but there is limited evidence that if you double in size you improve your underwriting perfor-

mance." he said. Other analysts disagree. "Cost-cutting usually suc-ceeds, so the company benefits. It's good news for share-holders," said one, although he conceded that policyholders may see fewer benefits.

One theory is that fewer insurance companies may benefit customers deemed risks because they will get cheaper quotes. But people representing poor risks will have less choice and may as a result face higher premiums or reduced cover.

A spokesman for the Banking insurance and Finance the down-side of mergers for ance employees. "There will be less choice for customers and there will be huge job losses. We believe 100,000 jobs could so — that's one third of the current insurance workforce. There will be higher profits for the City, but longer dole queues."

Agents blamed for sales woes

Wolfson, as only the third person to run the mail order empire of Great Universal and the other catalogue com-Stores, there was a whiff of change in the air but only a faint one: it seemed a fair bet that much would continue as such as lotteries and gifts. before. After all, the senior That is now changing at member of the trio was Sir GUS, as Lord Wolfson ex-Isaac Wolfson, Leonard's plained, and probably not be-father and founder of the dynasty.

plained, and probably not be-fore time: "If the reason for asking for a catalogue is to get

pation in the single currency.

As be made clear, the problem lies in the core UK mail order business, where sales fell slightly and profits of a million in a year.

dropped by nearly £10 million, to £44 million.

However, the real remains, that the expectation is a second seco

GUS has its specific prob-lems in this business, but the order as it is in cold war espichanging demographics and traditions which place a question mark over its figure. tion mark over its future. Lord Wolfson said the com-

pany's level of service had deteriorated last year, partly be volves much smaller, more cause too much effort was closely targeted, offers. It expended on recruiting and means names such as Racing retaining agents.

Agents are the industry's Innovations, along with Next

central problem and the agency system is falling offers a substantial catalogue. apart. First, agents are gener- Lord Wolfson said yester-

so they don't spend enough but also, they no longer Welfson took over from Lord (Leonard)
Wolfson, as only the third per-

to 4.1 million in seasonally-

There is growing criticism adjusted unemployment, a fig-in Germany of Mr Waigel's ure that was worse than ex-"diktat" and the country's pected. The Jobless rate is rency terms next year.

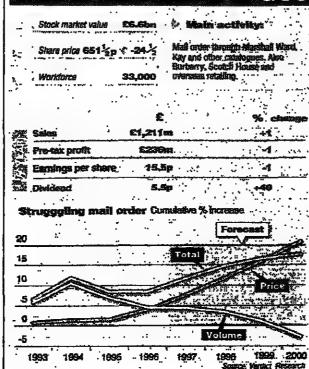
But yesterday the present chairman was forced to break new ground — that of an nouncing the first fall in the group's profits for 48 years

month period was less than 27 a week. But culling has whittled them down by a quarter-However, the real problem remains, that the era of the

to get customers to sell to other people and usually in-Green, Cotton Traders and possibly do so through acquisitions, as well as expanding its small Marshall Ward

ally in poorer income groups. | day that GUS was keen to get | ing Green and Innovations by so they don't spend enough | into direct mail and would | Burton, and the only other Burton, and the only other business clearly available is eration now owned by Sears, which is looking for £500 mil-

GUS



News in brief

found guilty

SENTENCE is expected today on Donald Anderson, the former Brent Walke executive found guilty yesterday of masterminding a cover-up to hide years of phoney profits at the leisure ETOUD.

Anderson, 45, was paid £500,000 by Brent for misleading auditors, solicitors and Serious Fraud Office investi-£19 million bogus profits recorded between 1984 and

The 11-week trial ended in a 10-2 majority guilty verdict at Southwark Crown Court on Anderson, of Richmond, west London, one-time finance director of Brent's Goldcrest film and TV division, Jurors had heard Anderson orchestrated the cover-up between August 1, 1983 and October 23, 1990 after a newspaper ques-tioned the authenticity of certain deals. This cover-up involved inventing sales of film rights, sales effectively funded by the company itself. said the Crown.

Ex-Brent man Barings 'star' loses out

ARY WALZ, the by ING, the Dutch company which rescued Barings, to pay the money was was sacked by the collapsed merchant bank Barings, has lost her legal battle for the bonus.

A former director of Barings Bank, she claimed she was entitled to a bonus agreed with the Barings

deputy chairman, who told her she was a star, before Nick Leeson brought the company down. tual or non-con She claimed the refusal right to the bonus.

THE Mercury telephone porate business market and claims to have removed one agreement with BT enabling customers — mostly busi-nesses — to keep their old

unlawful.

ING said the agreement was informal, had not been approved at senior level

and there was no money in the profit-sharing pool. Last night Ms Walz, 36, of Butlers Wharf, central London, said the tribunal in Stratford, east London, had ruled she had no contractual or non-contractual

Mercury makes the switch

telephone number when con-necting directly to Mercury, writes Tony May.

BT still connects more than

company, has a growing cor- panies running many lines.

of the main barriers faced by consumers wishing to take advantage of alternative suppliers' products and services.

Its deal covers people with a single telephone line and will be implemented nation-90 per cent of residential telephone calls but Mercury. the way for the introduction of

Jobs boost for Wales

SONY was last night be-lieved to be finalising a major inward investment agreement that could lead to hundreds of new jobs in South Wales, writes Gibbs.

Suehiro Nakamura, president of the Sony Display Company, Tokyo and Sony's new top man in Wales, Shigenori Takahashi, were due to meet officials from the Welsh Office and the Welsh Develop-

ment Agency. An announcement is expected later this morning. Sony yesterday refused to comment on the anticipated expansion of its Weish operations, but sources dismissed suggestions the move could bring as many as 2,000 jobs to the region

Sony aiready has a major presence in South Wales where it employs 4,000 people at plants in Bridgend and Pencoed, producing colour televisions, cathode ray tubes and graphic display monitors. UK's second biggest telecoms number portability for com- It is thought the group helps

Parke fights his way into semi-finals

ment, the Mahindra International, writes Richard Jago in Bombay. The former England No. 1 from Nottingham won 15-11, 15-17, 7-15, 15-7, 15-4 against the Pakistani Zubair Jahan to reach the last four. Parke today plays Peter Nicol, the title-holder from Scotland, who came from a game and 14–15 down to outlast Egypt's Ahmed Barada 13–15, 17–15, 15–8, 15–9. For the second successive day Parke appeared to tire and then come back with a mixture of mental toughness and cre-ative stroke play. When Parke let slip leads of 12-9 and 13-11 in the second game and quickly went out of contention in the third, it seemed his courageous progress would end. "But I think the hard match I had the day before helped me," he said.

STMON PARKE, who has battled to recover from cancer, yester-

day reached the semi-finals of a Super Series squash tourna-

Lightweight post for Bowden

THE Amateur Rowing Association has appointed Sean Bowden as national coach to "produce two top lightweight boats for the Sydney Olympics", according to David Tanner, the international rowing manager, urites Christopher Dodd.

Bowden, who coached Notis Country from 1989-94 and produced British silver and gold medal lightweight eights and two wins for Cambridge in the Boat Race, will take charge of the lightweight squad under Britain's men's chief coach Jürgen Grobler.

Pot Black back on screen

EIGHT former winners of Pot Black, the BBC 2 snooker series, will compete in a Seniors Pot Black, sponsored by Henderson Investors, at Goodwood House, Sussex, on January II, writes Cline Everton. It will be recorded by Trans World International for later BBC transmission.

Olympics may drop soccer

LENNART JOHANSSON, president of Uefa, said yesterday that soccer may be dropped from the Sydney Games in 2000, partly because of a perceived snub to the sport from the American organisers of this year's Olympics. No matches were played in Atlanta, the host city.

Scheckter to race in England

TOBY SCHECKTER, the 18-year-old son of the 1979 Formula One world champion Jody, will start racing in England next season at the wheel of a Vauxhall Junior single seater in the series support-ing the British touring car championship, writes Alon Henry. Scheckter, whose father was the last driver to win the world championship in a Ferrari, finished third in this year's Formula Ford series in South Africa.

Kummu freed for final

Exeter

12.50 Three Land

IN AN about-turn of amazing proportions even for British ice hockey, the Superleague yesterday announced that Ayr's Ryan Kummu will play in tomorrow's B & H Cup final despite having already missed two games under a six-match ban imposed last week, writes Vic Baicheider. He will serve the remainder of his suspension after the final, beginning with Ayr's home game on Sunday against Bracknell.

èce lighteurs. Cology Cood (gond to soft in piacea). La lynolysia officy legye's mune denote disps since latent MIX culley.

87:10-1 USBARI LELY (17) (G) Pi Hodges 8-11-10
PAUS-11 BURILLENGTON SAM (DAS) (DD) A Hobbs 8-11-8
430-454 KARRISHS TYPHODOS (48) (DF) Pi Hobbs 5-10-12
DD-354 TIME LEADER (7) R Dickin 4-10-10
S22-44 MEANINGA BUSE (15) Pindly Farmil 8-10-6
DB-258 MEANINGA BUSE (15) Pindly Farmil 8-10-6

1.20 somespecial selling Harrican Chase 2m of Class

COMPANY SELLING HARDSOAP CRASE On ST CA
19/90-P TAPAGERS (200) M Pipe 11-12-0
503/9-P GAPAGERS (200) C Popinen B-11-9
419-S FERMING (3) R ROOM 9-11-6
531/9-5 OCTORES BREW (107) M Pipe 5-11-5
03-979-U THE WISOLE HOG (9) K Balloy 7-10-11
00-879 CASTLECOMMEN (04) M Pipe 6-10-4
25-903 ARKEN THEORY (20) G Berloy 0-10-5
125-009 ARKEN THEORY (20) G Berloy 0-10-5
125-009 UP THE TEMPO (4) Paddy Fermin 7-10-0
49-P2P CAPTAUN STOCKPONO (6) P Wymann 9-10-0
POSS-6 CAPTAUN STOCKPONO (6) P Wymann 9-10-0
POSS 1998-Removiek & Giandenser 7, Jacol Fred 6

1.50 TREPLEMENT MOVICE CHARZ See 21 05,047

2.20 DOMESTICKT HANDICAP CHASE 2m 71 110yds 04,162

1 2465-64 SPOTPROUTOR (13) J Giltori 5-11-11
2 PFF534- GUBA QUERIADH (217) H Twisto-Oavles 10-1
3 11-1 ARRIVA (140 L) (15) K Balley 7-11-10
6 2204-1 RALLYBA SOY (22) D Michelson 6-11-3
6 7452-1 GRSWELL LAD (17) P Hotts 7-11-5
7 154,023-1 GRSWELL GRT77 N GRSLets 9-10-13

12.50 THE DESIGNATIONAL MODERN HONGE PLAN SERVE ON AL CASE

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TOP FORM TIPE: Permitch 8, Gentomer 7, Stal Fred 6 Setting: 11-4 October Bree, 7-2 Gierstwer, 5-1 Ferwick, 7-1 Aldymers, 8-1 The Whole Hog., Jine Fred, 15-1 Cestieconner, Jewel Thini, 18-1 Tapageur

3 5555- FLOPPAICE (216) N Suedec 6-11-0 W Shrutes
4 21104 KIROPS CROSS (31) A J Wilson 1-11-0 A Bagaine
5 231-22 PRIAR PROME FUNDY (4 IS) (8P) G Bedding 6-11-0 A P Brothy
6 1000-5 PRIMERIC ACALLING (201 R Almor 7-11-0 Bay Uptow
7 52:571- ROUBINS PRIME (251) A Turned 1-11-0 Tourcomba (3)
8 494:55- ROUBINS SILK (251) A Turned 1-11-0 B Destroordy
9 24:17-5 WILD WEST WIND (200) (8P) Miss H Kright 6-11-0 B Cohemn
10 D11258- GRONDA (258) N Twictor-Davies 6-10-0 C Liversity
TOP FORMS TRYES Lively Kraiges 6, Wild West Wind 6
8 Beddings 6-11 Signing Silk, 11-4 Lively Kright, 8-1 Wild West Wind, 8-1 Pher From Futny, 12-1 Guintin, 20-1
Rand of Cross, 25-1 Purzock Covalier

tetting: 13–8 Cufm Esgle, 7–4 White Poad, 5–1 Mylini, 10–1 The Land Agent, Sir Desie, 14–1 Leep Frog. 5–1 Miniter Bomber, Patindum Boy.

Timeform's annual delight

2.50 ms transferrit for house burdle (qualifier) to 21 become

0-UP FASH MARK (8) R From 5-11-0 50- FLANUAT WOOD COMB B BECOMF 5-11-0 60- LEAF FROM (2005) N GEOMEN 5-11-0 MASTER BOSINES R Alone 5-11-0

MASTER BOSINES R Alors 5-11-0

SO- MYLIEK (23-1) D Nicholson 6-11-0

04049-0 PALLADERH BODY (177) Mrs. J Rethr 6-11-0

10 JUNES BARR (165) M Pipe 4-11-0

688-00 SER DAMYE (165) R Power 5-11-0

31- THE LAND ARBOTT (237) J Miller 5-17-0

1-2 WADE ROAD (277) (BF) Histo H Kinglet 5-11-0

0-409 LELY THE FELLY (28) Mrs Bertaus Warreg 5-10-9

0 SERMINE (60) R Alber 5-10-9

3.20 nombredit namedad introle 2m of 62.175

DOWNSHING EARLY (257) (S) Pruling 7-1-11 - 6(1)(2-2 BEYOND OUR BEACH (S) R Hodges 8-11-9 - Prich-I BARRY PRICK (T) R Hodges 8-11-9 - 13-00 Boldbalows BREACH (S) R Hodges 8-11-9 - 13-00 Boldbalows BREACH (S) R Hpp 4-11-7 - 13-17-1 JUST PRICK (14) J Did 7-11-7 - 110-20 THE REACK BOOK (142) (CD) M Pipe 5-11-0 (C2-307 BARDSON (14)) S Milmon 4-11-3 TH/P8-1 PONTAMESDONDE (267) G Baiding 6-10-8 - 11/17/94 - PONTAMESDONDE (267) G Baiding 6-10-8 - 11

11/1964 PONTABERROUGE (267) G Bairing 8-10-8 ...
02:0197- CLASSIC PAL (553) N Michel 5-10-1 ...
12:0197- CLASSIC PAL (553) N Michel 5-10-1 ...
14:0197- CLASSIC PAL (553) N Michel 5-10-0 ...
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TOP FORE TIP: Sir Davis 7

...B Houre (?) ...A Hopeles ...T Descensie (3) ...A P HeCoy ↔ ...Br R Wekley (?) ...Br A Soldwards

A Supple (7) *
A Proder
A Proder
Ony Lovis (0)

Xavier breaks duck on Severn

Chris Hawkins

AVIER AIZPURU who, believe it or not, talks with an authentic Gloucestershire burr, rode the first winner of his career when making all the running on Severn Gale in the Paley Street Handicap Hurdle at Windsor yesterday.
Aizpuru was brought up at

Bourton On The Hill, where his father, a Basque, runs the Horse And Groom public

As a nine-year-old, Aizpuru went knocking on David Nicholson's door asking to help out in the yard during his school holidays and

things progressed from there.

Now aged 21, he is attached to Robin Dickin, whose gallops are used by John Allen, the trainer of Severn Gale. Allen, based near Alcester, bought the mare out of a Stratford seller recently for

7,000 gns. "As she is by Strong Gale I thought she was chesp, for whatever she does on a racecourse she'll be ideal to breed from," said Allen who, considering this was his first winner for four years, exhib-ited what some might regard as reckless confidence in regarding Severn Gale as a

"I knew she would win and had a good bet at 10's and 8-1." said Allen, who has only four

Mick Channon was another to pull on his betting boots and got some of his Barbados holiday money when Dane gold ran out a comfortable winner of the first division of the Spital Novice Hurdle.

the Spital Novice Hurdle.
Danegold was badly handicapped and drew a blank last
Flat season, but travelled well

bis hurdles and looked very inexperienced.

Brendan Powell earned his sprang something of a surface who approached by the sprang something the sprang something of a surface who approached by the sprang something the sprang something the sprang something something the sprang something the sprang something something the sprang something the sprang something something the sp



Steam heat . . . Flow, winner of yesterday's Woodside Chase at Windsor, and her stablemate Ballyedward (foreground) get a post-race wash-down entry stable and her stablemate and processes at the contract of the contract of

market and finished fourth. He was produced in the straight by Jamie Osborne, but ran around approaching his hurdles and looked very

enough throughout this race | renewed effort from Flow to | winner of the second division to suggest he can score again | please favourite-backers in | of the Spital Novice Hurdle.

Flow lacks pace but not de-termination and she fought back to win by a length and a half.

to suggest he can score again in similar company.

Night City, trained by Lady Herries, opened favourite on his debut, but drifted in the work of the Spital Novice Chase after Secret Bid had touched down fractionally ahead at track, but as the trainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the strainer pointed out; "all my horses the strainer pointed out;" all my horses the pointed out; "all my horses have been a bit off with a lung infection."

Proton stayed a mile and a half well on the Flat and his greater stamina saw off the gambled-on Desert Green, who appeared to be cantering

Just about the easiest win-per of the afternoon was Zere- journey to Newcastle last Satdar, who took the four-runner Wraysbury Handicap Chase hard held despite hitting the third-last very hard.

Zeredar was the first leg of a training double for Kim Baller, who immediately follows.

ley, who immediately fol-

12.30 in A Homest

1.00 No More H

Market Rasen

journey to Newcastle last Saturday when withdrawn on ac-count of the ground.

"I'm very worried about the ground and unless we get some serious rain I can see him missing the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton," said Bailowed up with Act Of Parlia-ley, mindful of the fact that ment, well ridden by Rupert Alderbrook is still an entire Wakiey, in the Dorney Amateur Riders' Chase.

Bailey reported Alderbrook mind.

that the **ISSU**re

Hereford runners and riders with form guide 1.10 Star Of Bally 2.40 Strain

Sology Good to pull, or Devotes Iglinhors. Or Proceedimenty Juganities Tive. Piganes in housistic after Instal's punts depote days that Salest IIII anthus. 12.40 WORLAND SOURCE RESIDENCE TO 110/24 CO. P.C.

ROPORD (13) W Tener 5-11-5 CHILL PRINCE (22:1) N Apile 5-10-12 ATRICKY GALE F Lloyd 5-10-13 GONG- BALLEMHAMOROUS (2537) B Source 4-10-12
11 BOOTS MADDORINE (253) BACK V Williams 6-10-12
291-05 BERNETHFOOD MELOOF (13) P Dation 6-10-12
091- CHALL REPORTES (2640) K Bistrap 6-10-12
091 BROTHANTON (223) T Modely 6-10-12
091 STREAMHAMORAK (29) H OFFOR 5-10-12
091 STREAMHAMORAK (29) H OFFOR 5-10-12
091 STREAMHAMORAK (29) H OFFOR 5-10-12
091 STREAMHAMORAK (14) J O'NAM 5-10-12
091 STREAMHAM (14) J TUCK 4-10-12
091 STREAMHAM (14) J TUCK 4-10-12
091 PRILEM (39) P Morphy 5-10-9 P Hobbs 5-10-12
(34-10 MADRAM MEMORY (2003) M TWINTON-Device 5-10-12 , il Williams , il Supplie , il Bridges

TOP PORM TIPE Subjections I. Warner For Players T, Call Heights & roup Joe 5 10 12 W Hersten S-E (2) Historiani) 14 cm Bettings 13-6 Scots Medden, 4-1 Werner For Players, 5-1 Medium think, So 14-1 Oct Caveller, 16-1 Mediord, Chill Religion, The Brows

PORINE BURDE - SOCITS MADDEN, Headiney Stock, led well impide bust, ron on, was by the brost Anothe Cacker (Norcester 2m MH Flat, Cid.) WARRING POR PLAYWING Effort Sty, weakened 2 out, 25 Sto of 14 behind highly littles (Wormeler 2mill no MALESCAN PRINCIPAL ORD pace first 23, 104 Set of 16 both Wyspytro Lady (Bangor 2m11 MY Fist, Got),
RADDAN MERCIA One pace first 23, 104 Set of 16 both Wyspytro Lady (Bangor 2m11 MY Fist, Got),
RADDAN MERCIA One pace first 23, 104 Set of 2014, Urable to quicken, 158 2nd of 5 to Tarrock (Linguised 2m11)
Fig. 161, SSI.
CHOLL MERCIA Physiologies event last seasons, kept on 20 Minin 25 4th bind Terreso (Minister 3m. nor later)

1.10 SIGNEY PHILLIPS FOR PURS MANDICAP CRASE 24 ST CA,087 201 912974 ONEN THE POLE (200) (2) F Charlogs 2-12-0
202 387-42 LABATA (3) R Carson 1-12-0
203 250-06 SISTER ROSEA (5) for S Lawymus 8-11-3
204 373-47 MOSECS JAY (20) (87) G Thomas 7-10-12
206 213-45 AND OF ITALY (200) (87) G Thomas 7-10-12
207 207-45 AND OF ITALY (200) (87) G Thomas 8-10-7
208 207 207-43 PICKU (6) Min L Richards 5-10-7
207 207-43 PICKU (6) Min L Richards 5-10-9

TOP PORM THE Lances S, Fishe 7 Type 5 11 3 % Departmenty 9-1 (% Dieda) 8 ras Bettings 7-1 Lesats, 11-4 Fichs, 5-1 Winopit, 5-1 Montey Jay, 10-1 Steep Rooms, 15-1 Over The Pole. Set C

PORM QUADM - LASAY As Led 4 out to 2 out, unable to quicken, 41 and of 18 behind Zerodas, with FRCHU (rec. Skill) 24 graph 340 & SISTER ROSZA (rec. 17b) exciber 50 6th (Mandror 2m http ch. Cd). writingPET Led 4th until 6th, 3rd and beamen when blundered 2 out, 34 4th of 11 behind Jerz (Tauuton 2mb n. Atta Hendhey 710, ridden 4 out, soon waakened, 181 Sch ol 6 bind Toe Plush (Windsor Smill hop th LLS-FIN.

OVER THE POLIS Chose up, NE 5 cut, asset siber massake 2 cut, 17: 4th or 9 bird Fite Concern (Chapetons OVER) THE POLIS (GERS).

THEIR TRY NED CH. GE-SIS.

STAR OF ITALLY Facility 2 cut, ploy 4th when refused last, continued, distant 4th of 8 behind Dr Rocket
Historian Chin her Ch. 58).

1.40 PERCORD SELLING MINELE San 17 62,106 4. PRINCORD SELLING NUMBER 2m 19 42,108

5.7-1 RABEY (19) D Burchell 5-11-6

5.52-0 STRIGHS - PORK (19) B Limitaly 5-11-0

(7-00 BALLYKAYS (9/1) N Aydes 7-10-12

(9) DARLEY RAYS (9/1) J Smith 5-10-12

(9) DARLEY RAYS (19) J Smith 5-10-12

(10) DARLEY RAYS (19) N TWENT 5-10-12

(10) PRO (10) BRACK (1) CONTROL (10) N TWENT 5-10-12

(10) PRO (10) BRACK (1) (1) N TWENT 5-10-12

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(10) PRO (10) BRACK (10) N TWENT (10) N TWENT 5-10-12 __D J Burghell _Br J L Upprelign _B Factual _H Williamson __ _ | Horosom _Gary Lyons __ () Brackey 4; __ P Horoloy (2) __ W McPacked __ B Citized __ M T Egan (7) __ M T Egan (7)

1984; He-Jap & 11 5 B Pealen 6-1 (G H Yardley) 15 rm Bettless 6-4 Navy, 5-7 Lime Street Blank, Austrey Grack, 7-1 Proud Mage, 5-1 Strike-A-Posts, 10-Correction, 14-1 Strikey Face, Chico Hours, 30-1 Companies Models (SINDER - MANUTY) Led 2 cital, soon clear, won by 60 mon Willy Star (Tourcester 2m care self half, Gd), Literal STREET MANUTY Led to 7nd, weakering in Stat ones hit 2 gad, detains the of 9 and Registration Points

Charles Communication of the property of the unique and of the gradual of the second control of the second con 2.10 MET WITH THE TOTAL HOUSE CHASE (GUALIFER) St. S. C. SAS TO BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICE CHARE (QUALIFIER) See of Expansion of the provided that the provided that

TOP FORM TIPLE Find The Power S. Markets Milror 7, Apple John S 1805: Brang Of May 5 11 0 M A Phagannid 6-4 (N J Hamilatana) & can PORTE CERTIFY - PERS. THE POWER WITH Lander In Sea, and 40, hearted \$5

(Kempton Ste nor ch, Gd-Stg.) (Initial Michigan), reaching to lead title, 3 lengths sites; when unseemed rider 5 ext ballend. Caster State (Sedgesheld 2mil nor ch, Gd.) 2,40 MINTAN SERVICE ARATEST NESTRY MOVICE MARRIED BUTCH Son 47 E2,486 2...40 Reset AM HINDRANCE ARATESTS HORSEN HONCE RAND
894 873-841 WAYNAMERS WAY (1s) it Honderson 5-11-30
892 \$5-904 MINISTER WAY (1s) it Honderson 5-11-30
893 90-85 90on CThe J Greenin (7)

TOP PORM TYPE Shows B. Sagain 7. Washingto Wav &

196h Casers Boy 7 11 7 Br E James 3-1 (C James) 18 mm Buttings 11-4 Visylarum Way, 7-2 Sepaia, 5-1 Reven's Recei, 5-1 Steam, 8-1 Highly Chamming, 14-1 Justice Microsol. The Descriptor. 16-1 Irisis Wildows

occast GUIDE - WAYFAREES WAY! Held up, headway 2 cel, led last, ridden ook, non by 15t from Caheno Wincardon 2m nov hop hid, Gid. HEAALA: headway 2 cel, ridden and weekened last, 111 Ste of 10 behing TremenSub; (Alabros 2m) by nov SECONIAL Manachings 3 and, Polision and reconstructions, 131 also in the mining (reconstruction planetes) and the field. GCS,
RAMSHITS INCOCST). Every changes 3 and, once page from 2 and, the 2and at 15 and Lake the Frank Blandburd
SCST 109 may keep hat, GP490;
MACHEY CHARBESTEE Procedures to Site, 281 4th of 15 bind Chicapericks, (Married Size page 14), 4th of 15 bind Chicapericks, (Married Size page 14), 4th of 15 bind Chicapericks, (Married Size page 14), 4th of 15 bind Chicapericks, (Married Size page 15), 4th of 15 bind Chicapericks, (Married Size pag

1986: Cantacks Frater & 11 S W Microbian S-1 (Mrs. J Phones) 11 von ttilogu 11–2 Express Travel, S-1 Cool Character, 3–1 Hangour, S-1 Rebend, Majors Legiscy, 3–1 stymons, 12–1 Conty Pione, Galater Drum, Suthwick Bobbie, 25–1 Regged Kingdon CORNEL COLUMN - EXCPRESSES TRAVEL: Held up, heartway 14th, lad 4 cut, nor on, won by 20 from by Heart (Microstor 2017) nos lespois, Gd. COOL CHARACTERN Bishfort mail homelway 25rd, onto page from 25th, 381 4th of 8 hishfort McGangor The Theref (Characters and Prit Inc.) and in local 4 cut, hundred 2 cut, landed, Th. 3rd of 9 behald Lord of The West AMAGOVIEW Calculus (A. 1818) of 16 cut of 1 cut, hundred 2 cut, landed, Th. 3rd of 9 behald Lord of The West (Norrostor 2017) Thy log of, Gd-301.

Go-Fm). BOBSAND: Htt 7 out, no impression, 20 4th of 9 bld Byrkhaed, with NAJORS LEGACY (invoks) 71 termy 5th Townstein Smith now the Och. Local Principality Residen 5 aud., sone paces, 40° ath of 8 to Director Landon (Williams Smith now hisp boll, Gd). 3.40 SHEPHERES WEADOW STANDARD OPEN MY FLAT RACE 2m 11 \$1,406 16- 115T OLG QUESTION (286) J 07668 6-11-11 --

5 AZTEC WARROW (27) K Belley 5-11-4

9020 6 Ryel 5-13-4

CAMP MEAD O Sterwood 5-11-4

0- COOL HARRY (813) H Neyrol 5-11-4 ARD. COOL HARRY (\$13) H Harnes 5-11-4

US-CHOCQUARADHELL (\$23) K Bridgener 5-11-4

S DOM BELTRANO (\$17) H Twisten-Opeles 4-11-4

JAST STACK 4-11-4

O KURSENY'S GENET (\$27) R Debte 5-11-4

O KURSENY'S BLUDBL (\$10) J Smith 4-11-4

OMERINA'S BLUDBL (\$10) J Smith 4-11-4

GENERALY WENTERER H Hardward 4-11-4

SMITHER CRITY A (\$1850) 5-11-4

CALLEGOOD (\$10) J Headines 8-10-4

CALLEGOOD (\$10) J Headines 8-10-43

1990: Badyor's Line 4 11 4 R Danwoody 5-4 (K C Balley) 17 cm Buddings 3-4 Şunday Venturis, 11-4 Cartop Hand, 5-5 Just One Cuestion, Actes Werrior, 5-1 Califorino, 12-1 Dom Betresot, 16-1 One Mayer, 20-1 Surprise Cay

Bertings 5-4 Contest Express, 3-3 Colorial Ambilion, 11-2 Mass Int., 5-1 Shees Deligits, 10-1 i George, 12-1 Martiene, 20-1 Fred's Deligit. 3.00 U.S. 119850 HOYGCE CHARLES 11 11974 (2),200 1 025-1FU GOLDRAI MELLO (8) (RE) T Severty 5-11-5 _____ 2 211-021 MONTHER DRUM (40) M Wildingon 7-11-6 ____ 1/PU-25 BOLD BOSS (8) (8/7) G Moore 7-10-12 PO-SSPR CARDINAL SOUNDS (12) J Waste 7-10-12 PO-SPR CARCEROL SCRIEGO (1847 V PRICE (* METAL ST. PRICE AND SCRIEGO (* 1847 V PRICE A ***Comparison of the comparison of the compariso TOP FORM THYS: Minior Draws &, Golden Holle 7, Bold Ross & 5 PMAR ENDOOM (41) J FinGordd 4-11-5
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THE jumps season may be the exhaustive Statistical well under way, but it's Review, will set you back 262 not too late to profit from the (inc p&p, from Timeform pages of Timeform's "Chasers House, Halifax W.Yorks HX1 pages of Timeform's "Chasers House, Halifax W.Yorks HX1 & Hurdlers", the definitive 1XE) but, spread over the seareview of the 1995/96 cam- son, that is not excessive. paign, writes Ron Cox. Lengthy essays on the top horses, with perceptive com-

ments such as the one concerning the recent Murphy's Gold Cup winner Challenger du Luc — "will win a good

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9 (commerce Magainers 6-4 Propoy's Drogon, 4-1 Air Brisige, 5-1 Pietr Georgia, Sprig Mustin, 8-1 Too Lasiy Captain, 16-1 Don't Tall Marie, Game Drives Blinkered today for the first time: HEKEFORD 12.40 Filch. MARKET RASEN 1.00 Phantom Duncer; 2.00 Cool Waniber; 3.30 Sprig Muslin.

Spurs clinch Iversen deal for £2.6m

Stephen Bradfield

ESS than 24 hours after playing a part in one of the European Cup's greatest upsets, the Rosenborg striker Steffen Iversen completed his move to Tottenham for £2.6 million. The signing of Iversen, who helped the part-timers reach the quarter-finals by beating Milan in their final Champions League match, broke the Norwegian transfer record set when Manchester United paid Molde £1.5 million for



Iversen . . . striking addition

It was the culmination of an eight-month surveillance op-eration by Gerry Francis.
"We have spent a lot of time and done a lot of work to bring Steffen here. He will be in the squad against Coventry [tomorrow] and I'm hopeful this will be a turning point." Iversen had planned to take

a Caribbean holiday before starting his White Hart Lane starting his white Hart Lane career but, because of Spurs' injury crisis, the 6ft 2in Nor-way Under-21 player is being pressed straight into action. He said he chose Spurs ahead of a queue of clubs because "my friend Espen Baardsen is already with the club as their reserve goalkeeper. I'm sure he will help me settle in but I don't see any real problems with that".

It was a day of double delight for Francis because the goalkeeper Ian Walker signed a new five-year contract with the club.

Birmingham's Trevor Francis has also been on Rosen-borg's trail. He was at the San Siro and is thought to be in-terested in Harald Brattbakk, who hit the first goal against Milan and made the second. Nottingham Forest have dismissed speculation that lan Woan is to be sold to Spurs for £3 million to enable the club to meet a reported New Year's Eve deadline to pay back £2 million of debts. The teenage Sweden Under-21 striker Fredrik Ljunberg of Halmstads is attracting the interest of Sunderland.

Neal's days look numbered as City approve £10m spend

THE writing would appear to be on the wall for the Manchester City caretaker manager Phil Neal, following yesterday's annual general meeting at the beleaguered First Division club.

At first the City chairman Francis Lee claimed be was anxious to avoid speculation about the post. "I can't com-ment on the position, otherwise I would be linked with 35 managers as I was last time and the position would be intolerable for the man looking after the team."

investment of new funds, and neither do my wife or however, he indicated that Neal's time was about to run sure in life for me at the out after one win in six | moment."

manager that comes along that there will be a fund of £10 million to spend on players," Lee said. The 600 shareholders pres

ent were given details of a rights issue of around 13.5 million ordinary shares with which the club hope to raise money for new players. Lee said he would re-assess his own position in the next

12 months. "I recognise the situation we're in. I get no pleasure from sitting there at Wolverhampton with 25,000 of When questioned about the their fans calling me a prat



A good night's work . . . United's scorers Eric Cantona and Ryan Giggs calebrate after Wednesday night's victory in a freezing Vienna

Reds in the black and with a spring in their step night finance is even less of a problem.

the plot is far from over.

The old conventions no

longer apply. This season's Champions League has pro-

on March 5 before meeting United in the Estadio das

Antas a fortnight later. If

present patterns are maintained a draw in the first leg would not be a disaster for Ferguson. Nevertheless, mak-

ing United odds-on to reach the semi-finals does betray an

alarming ignorance among punters about Porto's present

strength and form.

The crucial point about Wednesday's victory in Vienna is that it has given United a three-month breath-

ing space to concentrate their

thoughts on the Premiership

and Ferguson an opportunity

to sign the central striker be needs. And after Wednesday

Manchester Utd

THE last time these clubs met in Europe was in the 1977–78

Cup-winners' Cup when Porto won the opening game 4-0 and United all but turned the tie

around back at Old Trafford,

winning 5-2. Similar dramas are not impossible this time, al-

though Schmelchel has surely suffered enough blood-letting

for one season. Artur Oliveira

League results so far, they are

as well organised defensively as

will pose the main threat to English hopes and, to judge

v Porto

David Lacey on the win in Vienna that gives Manchester United breathing space and the chance to buy a central striker

UDDENLY the idea of Manchester United winning the European Cup, or at least reaching when they heard the news from up the autostrada. The European Cup holders are now even more strongly fan-Cup, or at least reaching the final, is no longer concied to retain their title but fined to the field of dreams. The thought is prompted not so much by Wednesday's 2-0 victory over a spavined Rapid Vienna side in an igloo of an Ernst Happel Stadium as by duced 20 home victories and 21 away wins. United have managed to get through de-spite losing to Fenerbahce

its consequences.

By finishing runners-up in Group C of the qualifying competition United have not only become the first English on March 5 before meeting on March 5 before side in 11 years to reach the last eight of the tournament but now find themselves in the more negotiable half of the quarter-final draw. The word "easier" does not apply here but it could have been

If Alex Ferguson's team can get past Porto in March they will meet either Borussia Dortmund or Auxerre for a place in the final in Munich's Olympic Stadium on May 28. Neither can be remotely de-scribed as pushovers but rather them, surely, than Ajax or Juventus, who are the other likely semi-finalists al-though Atletico Madrid are quite capable of exploiting further lapses by the Dutch

side.
This was always going to be a more open competition than usual; so many of the big names from the past — Real Madrid, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Paris St Germain, Benfica — were missing Ro-senborg's 2-1 win in the San Siro on Wednesday, which eliminated Milan and ensured that Arrigo Sacchi's return as coach went down like a sack of spuds, summed up the anarchic mood of the tournament so far.

Juventus, whose 2-0 defeat of Fenerbahce assisted United's passage, now meet Rosen borg in the quarter-finals and must have thought that Christmas had come early they are up front. Having made £4.5 million

from their group matches United now stand to profit by a further £2.5 million from the Porto tie. "It's up to the manager," said Martin Ed-wards, the club's chairman and chief executive, when the party returned home from Vienna in the early hours yes-terday. "If he wants to terday. "If he wants to strengthen the squad we are more than capable of support-

ing him."
Ferguson came home looking decidedly more chipper than he had done on United's arrival in Vienna. "Now we're through I feel we can improve," he said, "At times against Rapid we showed good penetration. Ryan Giggs is an important part of that, as he showed with his goal.
It's very hard to handle him
and his speed when he makes runs like that."

Giggs, like Keane, Beckham and, crucially, Cantona found the sort of form this level of competition consistently de-mands. So did Peter Schmeichel in what was arguably the most warming moment of a bitter evening. Schmelchel's early save in deflecting Rene Wagner's downward header of the goal-line with one hand inevitably drew comparisons with Gordon Banks's save from Pele during the 1970 World Cup, but there was one important difference. one important difference.

As Schmeichel himself pointed out: "Gordon had to get across to the post while this one was straight down the middle." Nevertheless the quality of the Danish goalkeeper's save can be judged from the fact that observers even thought of putting it in

the Banks category.
The down side of Manches ter United's success is the likely loss of Keone until the New Year with a gashed shin, string injuries which, according to Ferguson, will keep Butt and Gary Neville out of Sunday's match at West Ham. But by next March, if United are lucky, such set-backs will

Rosenborg v Juventus

ROSENBORG's 2-1 win in Milan confirmed how unwise it was to underestimate the Norwegian champions and probably made Blackburn Rovers feel a little better after last season's experience in Trondheim. But another Nordic surprise at Italian expense would defy belief, especially now that Iversen has gone to Tottenham. Juventus will surely have too much talent — and too many options — for Nils Eggen's side but, with seven players on yellow cards, they will need to take care.

Ajax v Atletico Madrid

EVEN in a period of transition Ajax are still strongly fancied to reach a third successive final, as they did in the early Seventies. Davids, Reiziger and Finidi George have all gone and Kanu has a heart problem, but Overmars and Litmanen continue to give their football a lot of the old qualities and Kluivert scored the winner against Grashopper on Wednesday. Radi Antic, the Atletico coach, will continue to put his faith in hard work and discipline. Much rests with the mood and form of Carninero.

Borussia Dortmund v Auxerre

now have Chapuisat fully fit and in his old scoring form. With the additional experience of Möller, Riedle and Sammer, provided he is not suspended, they will expect to do better against Auxerre. Guy Roux's French football factory have qualified impressively after losing 1-0 at home to Alax in their opening game but, with Blanc and Martin no longer around, they may lack a few wrinkle Ties to be played on March 5 and 19.

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Liverpool set up Ajax-style school

Mark Redding

T WAS out with the old and in with the new on Merseyside yesterday as Liverpool announced an academy of youth and Ever-

quit Goodison Park. The Liverpool scheme will take up 55 acres in Kirkby and contain around 10 pitches plus accommodation. Work on what will be Brit-ain's first football academy is due to start next spring and should be completed by the 1998-99 season

Liverpool have been im-pressed by the example of

their success on formidable youth schemes. The red academy will be run by Liv-erpool's director of youth

Steve Heighway. "We are laying the foundations to take Liverpool into the 21st century," the Liverpool manager Roy Evans said. "The new cen-tre will allow us to develop the best players from all over the world."

Everton struck a more sombre tone when their chairman Peter Johnson suggested the club could

the Dutch champions Ajax | where they have been since | the heat-seeking midfielder and the French champions | they walked out of Anfield | to move abroad. Auxerre | who have built | in 1892. They have their eye | "We've paid the fee. on land on the outskirts of the city next to the M57.
"I'm not at all happy

about the facilities that we have got." Johnson said. "Our problem is that we are very much landlocked and our capacity of 40,000 could well suffer if we made major changes."

Middlesbrough may al-

ready have a new stadium but they are still without their key player. Yesterday the club said they were prepared to write off the £4 million they paid for Emerson rather than allow

that's gone, but I'm not sure whether he can afford not to play football for four years," their chief execu-tive Keith Lamb said.

"If he doesn't play for us he can sit on the beach in Brazil or on the quayside in Barcelona watching the

ships sail by."
The Brazilian, 24, has been fined £100,000 for his continuing absences and is believed to be hoping for a move to Spain. He could, however, find himself with-

New PC wanted for giant-killing

FA CUP: Trevor Haylett on the curious case of Sudbury's captain Nicky Smith who must put his Suffolk constabulary training to one side tomorrow to try to eliminate Brentford

bury Town look to send Brentford the way of hapless Brighton, their captain Nicky Smith confesses that his mind has been awhirl all week — although in his case it has nothing to do with the giant-killing dreams abroad in this Suffolk market town some 20 miles west of Ipswich.

Indeed there have been times when he has had to stop and remind himself why vir-tual strangers are wishing him "all the best for Saturday". It is easy to forget that for

the would be heroes of part-time football there is a day job requiring due care and at-tention, and for Smith this week has been all about his first steps in uniform as the newest member of the county

"I suppose it wasn't the best time to begin a career such as this or to undertake a rigorous training course, but work has to come first and becom-ing a policeman is an ambition I have held for a long said Smith in a rare break between classroom

HERE is nothing quite stopped spinning with it all who are also returning like the FA Cup for filling the head with thoughts of what might just be. And sure enough, as Sud-things up. I've not really had suddent spinning with it all who are also returning "home", the authorities having ruled that the game be switched to Layer Road from things up. I've not really had Sudbury's Priory Stadium. time to think about the Brent-ford tie yet but that could work to my advantage."
His decision to leave the

professional ranks at 25 and pursue a life outside the game is instructive for the dispar-ity it reveals between those in the lower divisions and those on Premiership salaries. When, in 1994, Colchester released him on a free transfer, there was some hard thinking in the Smith household. "I could've gone to

Wycombe but what was on offer, bearing in mind where I would have to live, wouldn't have left me enough to repair the car. I talked things through with my wife and de-cided this was the way to go. The had a number of jobs but I'm definitely a lot better

off and every Saturday [playing) you come across other ex-pros who have done the same. Perhaps that explains why so many teams at this level are able to do well against the League clubs." Confirmation of this comes

from a glance at Richie Powling's line up for the secondround tie which will show, quarters in Martlesham.

"There has been so much to take in that my head has not wore Colchester colours and

Smith found his way there first time round after launch-



where his first manager was Bobby Moore. He recalls the calming, assured way the great man issued training-ground instructions. After England's World Cup-win-ning captain came Dave Webb, a chirpier cockney and the man who will occupy the visitors' dug-out tomorrow. It was Smith's nerveless

penalty after extra-time at the Goldstone which pro-pelled Sudbury to these unprecedented heights and ruined Jimmy Case's hopes of avoiding the sack before Christmas.

Tomorrow's task looks far stiffer against the Second Div-ision leaders but the captain has every confidence in his team, who are currently well placed in the Dr Martens Premier Division, one of the three feeder leagues into the Conference. Certainly the force is with the underdogs. "I've had one or two people

from the training course saying they will be going to the game to cheer us on," added Smith. "It is a lovely club, with lovely people, and it would be marvellous to see our name in the hat for the third round among all those giants from the Premiership."

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Tour match: Mashonaland v England XI

Nightmare in Mashonaland

David Hopps in Harare

NGLAND's likely Test team succumbed to a humiliating sevenwicket, three-day defeat yesterday against a side containing only five fulltime players. But don't worry, Sky's motivational videos

have arrived.

David Lloyd, the England coach, carried a pile of tapes into the dressing-room soon after lunch but, as they com-prise highlights of England's recent overseas performances, the tourists are unlikely to be unduly detained. Not unless someone has thought to throw in some black and white footage of Lord Hawke elegantly flick-ing a Rhodesian tobacco farmer through square leg.

Everybody has his grue-some favourite as England's worst performance in recent memory. There was the defeat against a West Indies Board XI in Grenada three years ago immediately after the infa-mous 46 all out in the Trini-dad Test; the second of two defeats against the Australian Academy at North Sydney the following year; or perhaps Zimbabwe's defeat of England

Those performances were confirmation of tours that feat is merely an embarrassing set-back at the start of one that is not beyond redemption. That is why it is possible, necessary even, to retain an optimistic outlook amid the understandable cynicism.

While Michael Atherton stoically ran through the usual platitudes, Zimbabwe's said: "At first I thought we would be competitive. Now we are beginning to fancy our chances, but England have not had much practice and the time will come when it

A power cut here made one wonder if Campbell meant "click" as in turning all the lights out, because England's top six have batted as if in the dark since arriving in Zimbabwe 10 days ago. In both in-nines against Mashonaland

the first four wickets went be- | disaster. In that at least he is

Atherton has made nine runs in three innings, his foot-fast drive yesterday at a foot-fast drive yesterday at a wide delivery from Gary Brent providing proof of his worsening back condition. He is peeved whenever much is made of it, but nipping down to a Harare hospital for an X-ray during a work to rule does not immediately sound like something you do for fun. "They are in the middle of their season and we are still rusty," he said. Asked if he remained convinced that England's three-month break had been the right policy, his expression confirmed that he was not about to abandon his

was not about to abandon his beliefs on the evidence of one

Scoreboard

O Gough b P A Strung
A R Caddick c A D R Campbell
b P A Strang
D Multiply o A b Brent
C R Turnell not out

Date set test: 10 J R Camposi, D schall-banette, P A Strang, B C Strang, G B Brant, R J Kirtley. Bewillings Mullally B-1-18-2; Gough 3-0-14-2; Tufnell B-1-35-0; Croft 8.8-0-23-0; Thorpe 1-0-5-1.

right.
Too much can be made of David Houghton had man-aged one innings in four weeks before this match, yet he followed up his first-in-nings century with a breezy 34 yesterday as Mashonaland ratiled off the 96 needed for victory shortly before the

close.
Alistair Campbell had been woefully out of form but his freely struck half-century was his second of the match. Enghis second of the match. Eng-land's brief hopes of escape after Mullally had quickly removed the openers were soon extinguished. England had resumed 88 be-hind on first innings and retained realistic prospects of victory if they could set Ma-shonaland 150-blus in the

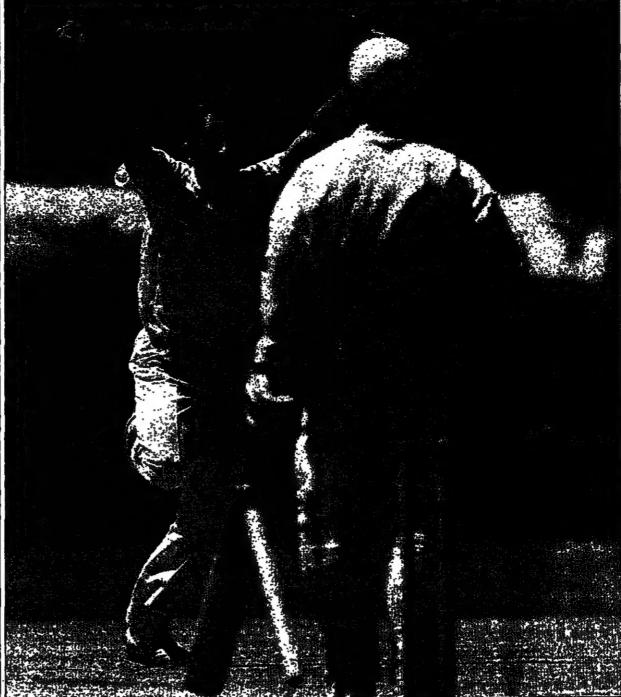
victory if they could set Ma-shonaland 150-plus in the fourth innings, but the swing-ing ball in the first hour vir-tually put paid to that. Knight might have consid-ered himself doubly unfortu-nate over his dismissal when,

in his eyes, Kirtley's delivery neither flicked his bat nor carried to the wicketkeeper, but he had survived a desper-ately close leg-before decision against the Sussex bowler Stewart fell second ball for

stawart tell second ball for nought as Kirtley's perfect out-swinger dislodged his off-stump and Brent's fraternal medium pace soon accounted for Atherton and Thorpe, who pushed suspiciously outside off-stump and was caught at

the wicket.
Only Crawley prospered.
He batted nearly three hours for his 74, including a succession of flowing off-drives, but even he was not beyond criti-cism when that very shot brought about his downfall as Brent continued to enjoy unexpected riches.

England's worst debacles of recent vintage often had a leg-spin theme and Paul Strang's danger in the forth-coming Test series was high-lighted as he took four wickets, the best of them that of Hussain, who was out leg-before trying to paddle. As vicecaptain, Hussain will hope that Atherton's captain's paddle is not about to be



Rugby Union

ASPS will next week unveil plans to forge a playing link with Wigan, rugby league's dom-inant club of the last

The immediate result of go to Wigan when available the partnership will be that and we would have their Va'aiga Tuigamala, the former All Black wing cur-rently on loan to Wasps, will not return to Wigan

next month as planned. Tuigamala had been hired on a 25,000-a-match basis during the Super League's close season but he may now remain in London until the Super League kicks off next March.

The playing link may also Gary Connolly, on winter

The playing link may also mean some Wasps playing rugby league for the newly

od: Ottawa 2, Pistoburgh 4; Westhington 0.
Hockey
Edmonton 0; Anahelm 3, Tampa Bay 1.

Hockey

lagiio and Andy Gomarsali when Wasps and Wigan met in the final of the Mid-

dlesex Sevens last May. He said: 'It might be that some of our players would mala has worked wonderfully for us and there is no reason why we cannot

Another Wigan centre Gary Connolly, on winter loan at Harlequins, will miss the Courage League leaders' trip to Bath tomortagged Wigan Warriors.
Geoff Huckstep, the row. He is recovering from Wasps chief executive, said a minor knee operation and in the said of the said o

The Lions lock Andy Reed returns to the Scot-

land squad after an absence of more than two years for missal that cost he match against Italy at in the Test team. Murrayfield tomorrow But Lee, who has also been week. Reed, who moved overlooked by Australia, confrom Bath to Wasps firmed the relish for English recently, has fought his bowlers he showed at Somerset last season with 113 from
back injury. The injured
scrum-half Gary Armwas murderous, especially a
was not seemed. strong is replaced by Der-rick Patterson and Northampton's prop Matt Stewart also steps up.

SCOTLAND SQUAD: Sacks: C Chainness (Metrose), it Britaness (London Scottish), S Mestings (Metroclans), K Logas (Stirling County), D Patterson (Hericit FP), B Redpatt, R Stepherd, D Stark (all Metrose), A Starger (Hericit), C Tewasend (Morthampton, Capit). Forwards: D Crooks (Wasps), G Mills (Curris), D Millson, Pentars (both Bath), K MoKessie (Stirling County), A Reed (Wasps), I British (Gloupearr), B Sewent (Stirling h A), Effected (Wasps), I Starger (Morthampton), Millson (CHI), Q Wels (Novecastis).

four continental areas -Europe, Africa, Asia-Oceania and the Americas — with one

country going forward from each to join seeded teams in a continental final.

Closest to home, the quali-fler would be joined in the

second round by three seeded European countries to find a European finalist

But the plan is complex and

seems to pander to the elite. Two teams would emerge

from two other continental

groupings, Americas-Oceania and Africa-Asia, the final pit-

Global vision seeks TV focus

New South Wales v England A

...while the As keep rolling along

EAN HEADLEY and Ashley Giles have been the best bowlers on the the best bowlers on the England A tour but it was their batting ability that snatched an unlikely victory over a powerful New South

Wales team at the SCG.
England had apparently squandered a winning position in this first of two oneday games when a third run-out left them on 202 for eight chasing a target of 244. How-ever, Headley strolled out looking more like Viv Richards than a tail-ender and his self-assurance seemed to

spread to Giles.
The Warwickshire player The Warwickshire player had struggled in an eighth-wicket partnership of 40 dom-inated by Glen Chapple after contributing to the dismissal of his captain. Adam Hol-licake was leading England's victory bid, making his halfcentury from 49 balls with four fours and a powerful pulled six, until he was left stranded by a mix-up with Giles. So it was a big relief for the spinner to wrap up the win with a copybook cover drive from the third ball of the last over, which was greeted by a roar from the mini Barmy Army of back-packers which had gathered in the Ladles' Stand.

"I felt partly responsible for Adam's run-out," said Giles, who ended with 39 from 39 balls on his SCG debut. "It was a fantastic feeling to hit that four, especially here."

Headley's 20 from 22 deliveries included an equally important and stylish boundary, flicking a near-yorker from Shane Lee through midwicket in the penultimate over to leave England needing five off the last. The Kent man was called late into the side when illness ended Mark Butcher's

ever-present tour record.

Despite suffering from a tummy bug, Headley, together with Chapple, had given England a fine start with the ball after Hollioke had chosen to how first in had chosen to bowl first in humid conditions on the pitch that Wigan had been impressed by the England internationals Lawrence Dalmersh.

Will Carling will be particular indies Test. Headley bowled his 10 overs straight through for 26, while Chapple had for 26, while Chapple had Michael Slater caught behind for a single slashing at a wide ball. It was the sort of dismissal that cost him his place

nulled six that almost cleared the Bill O'Reilly Stand.

Lee confirmed that he was in discussion with Somerset about a possible return next season if he fails to make the to impress again in the second one-day game tomorrow in his home city of Wollongong, just south of Sydney.

M J Stater c Hego b Chapple
C J Richards c Giles b Such
H Beyles c Such b Esiham
Las c White b Hollloaks
K J Roberts b Giles

ENGLANCO A
A McGrath c Loe b Robertson
M P Vaughan c Emery b Thompson
O A Shah c Emery b Robertson
A J Hoffloake run out
C White b Robertson
M A Esham run out
W K Hegg c Emery b Robertson
A F Gliee rot out
C Chapple run out

Pall of wishester 32, 74, 103, 121, 143, 15 162, 244 Did not bish P M Such, Bourdings Nithtaras 8-0-41-0; Thompso 10-0-41-1; Lee 10-0-47-0; Robertso 10-0-48-4; McNemers 5-3-1-25-0; Bayis 6-2-28-0. Umpires: I Thomas and A Morgan. England A wwo by two wickets.

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Boxing

ind # Assente

Kevin Mitcheli

ASEEM HAMED thinks ASEEM HAMED thinks he is one or two fights away from fulfilling the boast that he is the biggest talent in boxing. In announcing another step in that journey a bout at London Arena on February 8 against the American Tom Johnson — the richest man in Wincobank confirmed that he might already

"Twenty-two years old and champion, would not be ready on the American 24 and 0! Man, that's got to be stilled: "Excellent record — golden boy Oscar de la Hoya, but it's all got to end. As you shireman bellowed in mock know, my favourite round is shireman bellowed in mock-American. Johnson, as bona fide an American as he is a genuine champion, looked

mildly amused. Johnson, known as "Boom Boom", has made 12 defences of the International Boxing Federation featherweight

round two, so don't blink in round two — and I don't want Tom to blink either."

There is concern among the fight game's deal-makers that the recent defeat of Mike Tytitle, eloquent testimony to Johnson would make Hamed his pedigree. Hamed, the a leading contender to fill that World Boxing Organisation gap — and his eyes are al-

son has left a vacuum at the top of the sport. Victory over Johnson would make Hamed

has won at light-heavyweight. One man chasing Jones is Steve Collins. "If I have to move up to fight him, I will," said the Irishman, who will defend his WBO 12st title on the Hamed bill. An opponent will be announced next week for Collins and for the WBC super-middleweight champion Robin Reid. pion Robin Reid.

The Londoner Micky
Cantwell, whose home was
repossessed two Christmases
ago, fights the South African
Baby Jake Mattala at light-flyweight. "If you win this, you'll
be able to pay cash for one,"
said the promoter Frank Warrea, who says the \$8 million

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Results

Soccer

ITTRIDLY: Lebanop 4, Georgia 2. Rugby Union

ren, who says the \$9 million (\$5.6 million) promotion is the biggest of his career.

light-welter; boxing's only other superstar is the 12st su-premo Roy Jones Jur, who

Golf

GOH

ZMBRABWE OPEN (Herero): Leading first-round secures (SA union) state(): 65
3 vian Vutrer, D'Terbunche, 67:3 vian der Merwe (Marn), 65 N Price (Zim), 69 N Greyent (Zim); 46 N Price (Zim), 69 N Greyent (Zim); 47 N Propose; M Munices: 8 Vertwey star: J Hubday; R Dreyer, J Black (Zim), 72 M Machathy (Zim); 5 Hobots; T Dudds (Mam); G Raid: 0 Botse; A da Silva (Bir); M Scholz, A Prostint, 5 Vaughars; 8 Verwey) in: A Price (Lotter, 8 Vaughars; 9 Vaughars; 9 Vaughars; 9 Vaughars; 9 Vaughars; 9 Vaughars; 9 Vaughars; 10 Vaugh

Tennis

GRAND SLAM CUP: Guerter-finite: B Becker (Ger) bt J Haspit (Switz) 6-4, 6-1; T Heamen (GB) bt M Washington (US) 7-6, 6-3. Baskethall

ELIPPOLIZAGUE: Coroup & Ullicorspor 98.
Umogos 91 (ant), Group 9: Dynamo Moscow 79. Sentita 75 (act): Eleb Pilican 78.
Pau-Oritoz 78.
MEMA: Destroit 100. Atlanta 90: Mismi 101.
Delibes 79: NY 109. New James 102. Coloveand 34. Orismon 57: Usah 101. LA Lahent.
75; Houston 84: Boston 86: San Avenio.
113, Philadelphia 105. Phoenia 116, Golden
Sante 97; Indiana 127, Vancouver 80.

PREASER LEAGUER Kingston 7, Telford 6. NHL: Burleio 6, Varcourer 7 (at); Montreal 3, Boston 4; NY Rangers 1, Philadelphia 1

Cricket

Squash

LEAGUE OF WALLES: Ligrount/Iraid Enbw Yalo. PAI MATYONAL LEAGUE: Pruming Div-lations 3t Patricks Ath v Bohamiana. BRITISH ABROSPACE KATIONAL SCHOOLGRES CHAMPIONSHIP: West U-18 (10.0, Chilon College).

Two days of buston practice helped flow was vioures to a sharw of the first-nound load with his fellow South African Des Terblesche in the Zimbabwe Open in Herare yesterday. The 37-year-old van vioures, who holed out befor from turners, collected six birdles and an eagle with only one dropped shot in his swent-underpart 65. He was matched later in the afternout by Terblesche, who had five birdles and an eagle at the par-five Vith. Namibal's Schatk, van der Morwe was two shots beck in sind places with the detending champion Nick Price of Zimbabwe tourth on 65.

THREE-DAY MATCH: Magness South Al rice 384-5 dec (H Glibbs 200no) and 462-4 (H Glibbs 171, B McMillar 130, L Klusene 102no), India A 340 (V Kambii 95). Wate MANHADRA INTERNATIONAL (Bombay): Charter-Semin & Egice (Aug) bt Peropoy (cir) 15-8, 16-8, 16-7; & Calvan (Eng) bt D Ryan (Ire) 13-15, 15-7, 15-12, 15-8, 15-15, 15-17, 15-12, 15-17, 15-15, 15-7, 15-16, 17-15, 15-7, 15-16, 17-15, 15-7, 15-15, 15-17, 15-16, 18-16, 17-15, 15-7, 15-16, 18-16, NEW annual inter-nation competitions for men and

women, the World Hockey Series, have been proposed by the International Hockey Federation — provided "suffi-cient television revenue" is

development plan, the first men's competition is pencilled in for November 1997 to October 1998 with the women starting up in 1998-99. The events would be open | ting those three winners

According to the long-term

to all nations and would start against a host nation who had with eliminating rounds in taken no previous part.

Traq best their bitter rivels from 3-1 in the Asian Cup soccer finals in the United Arab Emirales. Urged on by some 2,000 supportme charating "With our souts and blood we radison you traq", the traq side produced a good performance and exacely resembled a side that had played little football in the past seven years. Iraq has size years and cince they were imposed the national side has not played an international in Baghdad.

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men

SportsGuardian

GRAND SLAM CUP



Two steps from £1 million

Becker next as Henman doubles his money again

Stephen Bierley in Munich

NOTHER day, another 431,250 dollars. Two wins within three days here at the Grand Slam Cup have amazingly doubled Tim Henman's earnings for the entire year. And he was supposed to be in Mu-nich as a non-playing guest. Now, after yesterday's decisive 7-6, 6-3 quarter-final victure English summer day tory over MaliVai Washington, this year's beaten Wimbledon finalist, Britain's No. 1 clashes swords with Bo-

Should he beat Becker, and

"You can't get any better than to play Boris in his home to have to play sorts in his nome town except perhaps in the Wimbledon final on Centre Court — and that is pretty much his home too," said Henman with a grin.

He had previously met

Washington only once, down by the Trent in Nottingham. Here the River Isar glinting under the winter sun recalled blew up a gust of recognition which, for both men, in-creased to a mighty blast of public attention a few weeks

ris Becker, king of Bavaria, in later in SW19. Here in the Bavarian capi-In this tournament of dollar fantasy anything can seem possible, and go on to win Sunday's final, then in the space of six short days Hen-

man could fly home with a million pounds in his pocket.
"You can't get any better than to play Boris in his home about that," said Hemman. But tomorrow's five-set

match against Becker will be a far truer sporting occasion. It is the first time they have met and Henman will be keyed up by far more than the cheque for close to \$500,000 (£300,000) which he will take This was arguably the best

Henman has played indoors. Washington, ranked 20th in the world, nine above Henman, was regularly discouraged by the velocity and accuracy of the Henman serve. One ace at the beginning of the second set — one of 20 — fizzed past the American at Henman won that 7-3 to ap-plause that could best be described as polite. His match was second on in 1984 when the German was

hand and backhand returns.

Hlasek, like Henman, was a

substitute for this tourna-ment. Indeed he had previ-ously announced his retire-

ment last month, although he

was hardly dragged out of it kicking and screaming. This

defeat netted a cool \$262,500.

Dressed in white, save for a small motif on his shirt and

couple of narrow flashes or

his shoes, Hlasek appeared a throwback to less garish days. It seemed time had truly slipped by him in the second

set as Becker pounded in winning shots with compulsive

and, once Becker played, it was clear the majority had years older than Becker, turned their attentions to the struggled to win. The next year Becker restaurants and bars on the claimed his first Wimbledon title and Hlasek has never perimeter of the arena. The clank of plates and occasional raucous laughter soon puncmanaged to get close to beating him since. Here he was simply overwhelmed by Becker's weighty serve and a clutch of tremendous foretuated play in this so-called premier tournament.

Not that this worried Hen-man one jot. Only once did he lose concentration and that was when he was 5-1 up in the second set. Washington broke him and his thoughts suddenly lurched back to the Wimbledon semi-final when the American clawed his way back from the abyss of defeat

against Todd Martin.
"Obviously, when you know a guy came back from 5-I down at the semi at Wimbledon, it does cross your

The first set had been extra the first of the day's two frequency. It might have in Catalonia, who once matches Switzerland's Jakob frightened the life out of Henlikely to go to the tie-break. Hlasek lost to Becker 6-4, 6-1. In the first of the day's two frequency. It might have in Catalonia, who once called his national team manman if he had been watching. At 5-0 down Hlasek picked Hlasek's first and only victory over Becker was in Basle up two rackets and played the German's first serve with the wrong hand. Becker, co-cooned in concentration, did 16 years old. Even then the Prague-born Swiss, three not even notice the crowd

> "I think at the moment I'm playing the best tennis of my life," said Becker, which was a clear enough warning to Henman. Becker's injury at Wimbledon allowed him several weeks of precious rest and he has clearly benefited

hugely. Not that Henman admitted to being tired or jaded him-self. I think people thought I had played too much tennis but the way I served today was not somebody who is tired."

Eric hums to the music of a nun's chorus



Vincent Hanna

HINGS were a bit tense on Wednesday night. The family was con-sumed with foreboding. Major asked Alex Ferguson to lunch — to get to know some-one who really wants to be in Europe."
My wife stared frostily:

"Your daughter Sinead says she's applied to be a Carmelite nun. What are you going to do about it?"

"Pray," I replied, "that he plays well tonight."
It is some months since I have written about Eric and his football team. My therapist assures me that I am over the worst now.

It is curious how much Cantona remains a talisman for Manchester United, even in these hard times. His uncertain and moody play is reflected in all the team does. He fails, they fail. The city is

baffled and depressed. For three years he has dominated much of our lives. Can-tona has imposed his image on films, TV adverts and bill-boards. We have been bemused by devils, raindrops, sardines, doggerel-verse and a "philosophy" which proves that anything sounds pro-

found if said with a French accent. We are fascinated and infuriated by a man whose heroes are the poet Rimbaud and the anarchist Ferré, whose grand-

day's training because his dog had died. Cantona came to Vienna on Wednesday night with one goal in 13 games, out of touch and out of sorts, as much a puzzle in adversity as in glory. The Rapid game was vital, not just for Manchester United but for British football, which has made no impression in the

European Cup for a decade. Cantona touched the ball 50 times during the match, 33 in the first half, 17 in the second, rated eight of those contacts poor. In three cases he beat one man, tried to take on another and lost the ball. On 18 occasions his touch was positive and effective. But eight times I caught a gimpse of the old genius. Like his left-footed cross from the right touchline to set up a simple, and muffed, chance

That superb first goal with Giggs weaving a left/right diagonal; the controlled hold and turn by Cantona, drawing in Ivanov, before stroking the ball into the path of Giggs coming at a reverse angle. These were excellent professional touches — as was his header in the 65th minute which hit the post; and his slide beyond the defence to meet Beckham's perfect pass for the second

But I felt that familiar tingle with one move after 39 minutes: Cantona on the right touchline at half-way, a mazy run across the field pulls defenders with him, an ex-change with Keane who feeds Beckham on the right. Can-tona sprints 40 yards, arriving at the far post to meet Beckham's long cross on the volley I was meamerised by the skill and vision but still wondered whether a year ago he might have turned it into the goal of

RIC has lost confidence," said Alex Fynn, who belped tona, published last month. 'Things he did instinctively he now thinks about and they don't work so well." Cantona insecure? An oxy

moron, I thought. But that is what people who know him say: that he is a man in the process of changing identity. He still smarts over his rejec-tion by the French national eam, both in Euro 96 and

since. "Eric wants recognition on the international stage, and being ignored is a massive blow to his self-esteem," a friend said. "He needs to be arrogant, to be secure in his identity and his power," sald another. "He feels cheated of his chance for greatness Nor did the drubbing

United took from Juventus in Turin, where Ferguson played him out of position, improve his mood.

Cantone, I am told, is basically a happy man. He has a devoted family and lives in a community that worships him. He knows that his future is secure at Old Trafford. He lacks neither money nor interesting things to do. But it is not enough for him, not for the

rest of us either. Well, maybe on Wednesday night in Vienna that arrogant spark was rekindled. Perhaps, now, be will get one last chance for greatness. I hope so — because I think Sinead is serious about the

Guardian Crossword No 20.829

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For Peter Barasworthy it was a dream come true. He had a voucher for unlimited

Pub Quiz Championship after six graelling rounds. But his victory was by

ao meaus fizal. He had yet

won the 1996 Hertfordshire

to claim the prize. He was placed in the bar of the Queen's Head Pub

in Westcott. There were two doors, each leading to different rooms. Behind one

decide which door to choose.

of the doors, lay the prize, access to the leve of his life-

The challenge was set. He did not know behind which door (they were

marked 1 and 2) lay which prize. Beside each door stood a harman to help him

that one of the barmon had

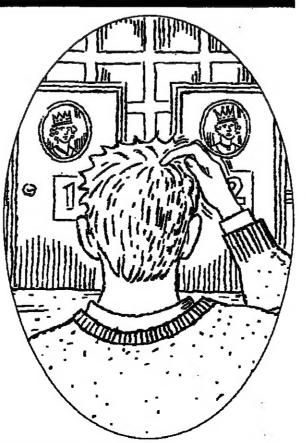
been instructed to lie, but Pater did not know which.

Peter stepped forward, asked one of the men a question, and upon bearing his asswer confidently strode through door 1 to elaim his voucher.

Peter is of course too busy to tell us how he worked out which door to

choose. Do you know how

belief also also beare it was an interest and a sea beare it will also be to the bear it was in the sea of the bear it is a sea of the sea of t



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voice of the male (8) 9 Solution's a Queen for New South Wales (6)

10 Lower part of pin (4) 11 Prodding the body causes pimples (5,5) 12 Old cubic carat, a fancy

silver alloy (6) 14 One figures it's the ready 15 Do not start to outline when

drawing a circle (7) 17 Crossing exercises left one able (7) 20 Keep Brummel initially to scale (8)

22 Pretty artist and the king (6) 23 Mainly deep mysteries (10) 24 Powder the German

having no retreat (8) Down

25 Note has one right for

26 Left without atmosphere,

blography (6)

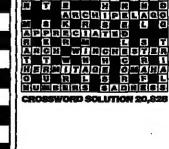
1 What's left for a graduate with long arms (8) 2 it turns up very loudly,

causing a row (4) 3 Fish's midnight entry to firth (6) 4 Ambassador runs on lines for colony (7)

5 Pain for an ugly person (4-4) 6 Paims do wave above first sacred singer (10).

7 James, the outlaw, one hears is a coward (6)

13 Angel's resting place? (3,7) 16 Flora, these are wrong (8) 18 Seth may first turn purple (8) 19 Part of the church dear to



21 Nail polish is title in the Spanish (6)

22 Country's former state lacks a capital (6) 24 Kelvin's badly put down (4)

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